



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



Vol. 14 Issue 267

Sept. 28, 2011

Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, Lord I ask that You touch and bless each person today. Lord I pray they are thankful in this season for what they do have and not for what they don't have. Fill each person with whom to bless and how, and whom to pray for and how. Rekindle Your agape love in them and keep them, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Worship Music

[Blessings-Laura Story](#)

[Grace-Laura Story](#)

[Perfect Peace-Laura Story](#)

[There is Nothing-Laura Story](#)

[Love Never Fail-Brandon Heath](#)

Scripture

Revelations 3 (2005)

Revelation 3:1-22 (AMP)

¹ AND TO the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Sardis write: These are the words of Him Who has the seven Spirits of God [the sevenfold Holy Spirit] and the seven stars: I know your record *and* what you are doing; you are supposed to be alive, but [in reality] you are dead.

² Rouse yourselves *and* keep awake, and strengthen *and* invigorate what remains and is on the point of dying; for I have not found a thing that you have done [any work of yours] meeting the requirements of My God *or* perfect in His sight. ³ So call to mind the lessons you received and heard; continually lay them to heart *and* obey them, and repent. In case you will not rouse yourselves *and* keep awake *and* watch, I will come upon you like a thief, and you will not know *or* suspect at what hour I will come. ⁴ Yet you still have a few [persons'] names in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes, and they shall walk with Me in white, because they are worthy *and* deserving. ⁵ Thus shall he who conquers (is victorious) be clad in white garments, and I will not erase *or* blot out his name from the Book of Life; I will acknowledge him [as Mine] *and* I will confess his name openly before My Father and before His angels. ⁶ He who is able to hear, let him listen to *and* heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). ⁷ And to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Philadelphia write: These are the words of the Holy One, the True One, He Who has the key of David, Who opens and no one shall shut, Who shuts and no one shall open: ⁸ I know your [record of] works *and* what you are doing. See! I have set before you a door wide open which no one is able to shut; I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept My Word *and* guarded My message and have not renounced *or* denied My name.

⁹ Take note! I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and learn *and* acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have guarded *and* kept My word of patient endurance [have held fast the lesson of My patience with the expectant endurance that I give you], I also will keep you [safe] from the hour of trial (testing) which is coming on the whole world to try those who dwell upon the earth. ¹¹ I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one may rob you *and* deprive you of your crown. ¹² He who overcomes (is victorious), I will make him a pillar in the sanctuary of My God; he shall never be put out of it *or* go out of it, and I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which descends from My God out of heaven, and My own new name. ¹³ He who can hear, let him listen to *and* heed what the Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). ¹⁴ And to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the trusty *and* faithful and true Witness, the Origin *and* Beginning *and* Author of God's creation: ¹⁵ I know your [record of] works *and* what you are doing; you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth! ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich; I have prospered *and* grown wealthy, and I am in need of nothing; and you do not realize *and* understand that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ Therefore I counsel you to purchase from Me gold refined *and* tested by fire, that you may be [truly] wealthy, and white clothes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nudity from being seen, and salve to put on

Radio Stations...

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOVE](#)

Bible Studies

Chuck Smith

[Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women- Cathie Laurie](#)

Questions: E-mail

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)

your eyes, that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I tell their faults and convict *and* convince *and* reprove and chasten [I discipline and instruct them]. So be enthusiastic *and* in earnest *and* burning with zeal and repent [changing your mind and attitude]. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears *and* listens to *and* heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he [will eat] with Me. ²¹ He who overcomes (is victorious), I will grant him to sit beside Me on My throne, as I Myself overcame (was victorious) and sat down beside My Father on His throne. ²² He who is able to hear, let him listen to *and* heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches).



Revelation 3:1–6. The Letter to Sardis

Sardis was a “dead” church that was alive in name only—although there were a few who “have not soiled their clothes” (v. 4). To such a church, Christ presented Himself as the Empowered One, who has the “seven Spirits of God” (v. 1) and can remove them from heaven’s roll. There are people in all types of churches today who call themselves Christians but who do not know what it means to become a new creature in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17). This may be the reason that thousands of people are leaving “dead” churches today and returning to Bible-based, Gospel-preaching churches which are alive with the Spirit of Christ. I will never blot out his name from the book of life (Revelation 2:5). True believers can rest assured that their name will remain in the Book of Life and that Christ will be their advocate before God and all the host of heaven. The Book of Life records that our citizenship in heaven is confirmed.

The Seven Spirits (Revelation 3 : 1)

• Seven spirits shared in the greeting to the churches (1 : 4) . • Christ Himself dictated the seven letters (1 : 19) , yet each letter was what the Spirit said (2 : 7) . • Later we see that seven spirits were before the throne (4 : 5) , and that the Lamb ’s seven eyes were the seven spirits (5 : 6) . The seven spirits seem to represent the sevenfold , or complete , operation of the Holy Spirit , the Spirit of Christ , the Spirit of God , all one and the same Spirit , in the fullness of His power — the form in which Christ works in and with His churches in the age between His first coming and His second coming .

The Presence of White in Revelation

- Jesus ’ head was “ white ” as snow (1 : 14) . • “ I will give him a white stone with a new name written on it ” (2 : 17) .
- “ They will walk with me , dressed in white ” (3 : 4) . • He who overcomes will be dressed in “ white ” (3 : 5) .
- Heaven ’ s citizens will be clothed in “ white ” (3 : 18) . • The 24 elders were dressed in “ white ” (4 : 4) .
- The martyrs wore “ white ” robes (6 : 11) . • Redeemed multitudes were arrayed in “ white ” robes (7 : 9) .
- Robes made “ white ” in the blood of the lamb (7 : 14) . • The Lord will come on a “ white ” horse (19 : 11) .
- His armies , clothed in “ white , ” will be on “ white ” horses (19 : 14) .

White is the color of dazzling light , in opposition to darkness and night . It may reflect purity and innocence , but more often joy and triumph . God dwells in light unapproachable (1 Timothy 6 : 16) . Jesus ’ garments in the Transfiguration were white (Mark 9 : 3) .

The Book of Life

- “ I will never blot out his name from the book of life ” (3 : 5) . • The beast ’ s followers are not in the book of life (13 : 8 ; 17 : 8)
- Those not in book of life were thrown into the lake of fire (20 : 12 , 15) . • Heaven is inhabited only by those written in the book of life (21 : 27) . • Daniel (12 : 1) and Malachi (3 : 16) spoke of heaven ’ s the book of records .

Exodus (32 : 32 – 33) refers to a divine ledger .

Revelation 3:7–13. The Letter to Philadelphia

The church in Philadelphia was a humble but faithful church, content to exemplify the life of Jesus in the midst of a pagan and corrupt society. The name “Philadelphia” means “brotherly love.” They were lovers of God’s Word and intent on keeping it. They were greatly beloved of the Lord—He speaks not a word of reproof to them. An open door that no one can shut (v. 8). God had warned the churches of Ephesus and Sardis against being proud of their influential standing. Here He cautions the church in Philadelphia not to be discouraged because they “have little strength” (perhaps referring to a small church membership), for God is not dependent on worldly prestige.

Philadelphia

Philadelphia was a Lydian city founded by Attalus II Philadelphus (159 – 138 b . c .) . The city was an outpost of Hellenism in Anatolia . It lies on a broad , low , easily defended hill , which explains why Philadelphia was the last city of Asia Minor to fall to the Turks in a . d 1390 . The district is disastrously seismic , and the great earthquake of a . d 17 that also hit Sardis ruined it completely . Placed right above the fault , Philadelphia was tormented for 20 years by recurrent quakes after the disaster of a . d 17 . This may be the basis for the imagery of Revelation 3 : 12 (“ a pillar , ” “ go no more out , ” “ a new name ”) . The “ new name ” is certainly a reference to the proposal to rename the city Neocaesarea in gratitude for Tiberius ’ s generous earthquake relief . The district was vine - growing and a center , in consequence , of the worship of Dionysus , the god of wine and intoxication .

Kept from trial (Revelation 3:10). The church in Smyrna had been told that they were to suffer persecution (2:10). The church in Philadelphia is given the promise that they will be kept from suffering. Both were faithful churches. However, God does not deal with all in the same way, but with each as He Himself knows best, beyond our understanding until we reach the other shore.

The new name (3:12). In 2:17 , a “new name” seemed to refer to unimaginable joys to be realized in heaven. Here, he that overcomes will receive God’s own name. It is a sign of ownership and a mark of citizenship. In the same way, followers of the beast receive the mark of their master (13:16–17). Each of us belongs either to the Lord or to the beast.

Revelation 3:14–22. The Letter to Laodicea

The church of Laodicea was a lukewarm church. Its members were materially prosperous, but God tells them that He sees them as spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Spit you out of my mouth (v. 16). A pretty strong expression of indignant disapproval of the lukewarm church. From this statement one would think that Christ prefers outright opposition to lukewarmness. Laodicea has been spewed out of his mouth. I stand at the door and knock (v. 20). This is a strange picture: Christ Himself on the outside, asking to be let in to one of His own churches. In measure, it is true of many churches of today, operating in the name of Christ but with Christ Himself little in evidence. Sit with me on my throne (3:21). That is, share with Christ the glory of His kingdom. The unending repetition in every letter that final blessedness is only for those who overcome seems to imply that many who had started in the Christian way were, one way or another, falling by the wayside. and Philadelphia, the two cities with good churches, are still flourishing cities today (Izmir and Alasehir in Turkey). Sardis and Laodicea, the two cities with bad churches, are now deserted and uninhabited sites.

The Typical Significance of the Seven Churches

seven churches may have been chosen as representing a fair cross-section of churches of that generation. They may also be typical, in varying degrees, of churches in all generations, in varying stages of maturity and apostasy, infiltrated to varying degrees by worldly traditions, each church largely the product of its leadership, with varying proportions of faithful leaders and faithful saints, and many congregations a pitiful mixture of church and world, of true and false. seven churches may also be symbolic references to the individual believer, who is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Perhaps the conditions of the seven churches could also apply to the "Christian" or "not so Christian" walk of each individual church member—for we are many parts that form one body (1 Corinthians 12:12). It is the individual member within these churches ("He who has an ear") to whom Jesus is speaking. It is the individual church member who must "overcome." Jesus says, "To him who overcomes":

"I will give the right to eat from the tree of life which is in the paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7). • I "will not be hurt at all by the second death" (2:11). • "I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to Him who receives it" (2:17) • "I will give authority over the nations—"He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery"—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star" (2: 26–28). • I "will, like them [the worthy believers of Sardis] be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels" (3:5–6). • "I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name" (3:12). • "I [Jesus] will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne" (3:21). to God! May we all be worthy! (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Bible History & commentaries; Zonderson; pages 922-926)

Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea: VV1-5 Sardis is the dead Protestant church that kept too many of the pagan rituals and holidays of the churches of Thyatira and Pergamos after the Reformation. V7 Philadelphia is the faithful church in the last days. V8 Philadelphia has a little strength, places importance on God's Word, and has not denied Jesus as God's Son. V10 God's promise to keep His Church from the Tribulation. V14 Jesus is the origin of God's creation, the creative force of God. V17 The Laodiceans were lukewarm because they trusted in materialism. They thought they were rich and secure, but Jesus said they were " poor, blind, and naked." V19-20 The cure for the lukewarm church: 1. chastening, 2. to be zealous for God and to repent, 3. to open their hearts to God. (New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; commentaries; page 195)

We all need to hear from God each day about many different issues, but there are critical times in our lives when we especially need to know we are hearing clearly from Him. God wants to speak to us, but we have to be careful that we do not develop a closed mindset about *how* He wants to speak to us. Sometimes God speaks by opening or closing a door to something we want to do, as Revelation 3:7 suggests. God can open doors of opportunity that no one can close, and He can also close doors that we simply cannot open. I pray that God will open only the doors through which He wants me to pass. I may sincerely think something is right to do, when it may be wrong; therefore, I depend on God to close doors I am trying to walk through if I am in fact making a mistake: "A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure" (Proverbs 16:9). Sometimes the only way to discover God's will is to practice what I call "stepping out and finding out." If I pray about a situation and do not feel sure about what I should do, I take a step of faith. God has shown me that trusting Him is like standing before the automatic door to a super market. We can stand and look at the door all day, but it will not open until we take a step forward and trigger the mechanism that opens the door. There are times in life when we must take a step forward in order to find out—one way or the other—what we should do. Some doors will never open unless we take a step toward them. At other times we may take a step and find that God will not open the door. If we trust Him for guidance, and the door opens easily, we can trust that He is leading us to enter into the opportunity before us. In 1 Corinthians 16:9 Paul states that God opened a wide door of opportunity for him and his companions. He also mentions that there were many adversaries, so we must not mistake opposition for a closed door. Paul and his coworkers did not sit and wait for an angel to appear or a vision to be given to them while praying for direction. They took steps in the direction they felt was correct. Many times God did open the door, but there were times when He closed the door. This did not discourage them. They were not afraid of "missing God." They were men of faith and action. They also knew to back off quickly when it became evident that God was not permitting them to follow their own plan. I encourage you to be the same way. Take the steps you believe you need to take in life and see if God opens or shuts the doors. (Word 9 Software; 2005; Bibles; concordance; Sermons of past pastors; history; Devotionals) (The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified; 2005; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; commentaries; pages 2124-2128)

Psa 119:105

Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



Chapel Flock; "Thought For The Day"

Spirit Walker Ministry; PO Box 161102; Wichita, Kansas 67216

Telephone Number; 316-243-1438

www.chapel-flock.com

www.blessingboxcottage.org