

Becoming a Church that  
Pleases Jesus  
(Jesus' Report Card  
of the Church)

Revelation 2-3

# Introduction

Jesus has amazing plans and expectations for His church. The people of God have incredible potential made available by the death and resurrection of Jesus, the truth of God's Word, and the power of His Spirit.

He has designed us to advance His kingdom on the earth and has prophesied that the gates of hell will not be able to stop us! (Matthew 16:18-19)

We want to be this kind of church! We want to walk in all that Jesus has made available for us. We want to be a pleasure to our Lord and serve Him effectively. Thus the importance of receiving His words to the church.

# Revelation 3:7-13

# His Open Door

- “I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.” Revelation 3:8
- Though our door in Parker county may look different than Sardis, the Sovereign Lord has given us an amazing opportunity in these days and in this place.
- Though people may think that they are moving here for the award-winning school district, athletics, horses, and a retreat from the big city; we know that God is bringing them here to encounter Him in a way that changes their lives and families forever.
- What a great opportunity! Let us do our part to show them the love, freedom and power of the Christian life.

How do we faithfully  
steward the open door He  
has set before us?

# 1. Know and Obey God's Word

- “I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have **kept my word**” Rev 3:8
- This word “kept” literally means, “to guard from loss or injury by keeping the eye upon; to hold fast; to keep.”
- If we are going to honor God in this place and in this time He has given us; it will require that we honor and obey His Word - the Bible.
- The Scriptures are an amazing gift to us, a great source of life that we need desperately. Do we value it? Are we reading and meditating on it? Are we obeying it? Is it the final and greatest authority of our lives and actions?

# 2. Faithful Devotion to God

- “I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word **and have not denied my name.**” Revelation 3:8
- God is looking, and has always looked, for people who will love and serve Him with an undying devotion and refuse to have any other gods before Him.
- I believe that one of the greatest and loudest testimonies we can have is our longevity as devoted followers of Jesus through the good, the bad, and the ugly of life.

# 2. Faithful Devotion to God

- Everyday we are continually tempted to leave our first Love for pleasures, possessions, power, prestige, and to just plain worship ourselves.
- Yet Jesus clearly laid out the requirement, “If anyone wants to be my disciple, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” Matthew 16:24
- Are we committed to be faithfully devoted to God no matter what? When is the last time we’ve told Him that?
- Have you denied God for lesser gods? He still loves you and awaits your return. Will you turn back to Him today, receive His forgiveness, and be welcomed home?



# 3. Leave Revenge to God

- Let's read Romans 12:17-19 together please.
- “Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.” 1 Peter 3:8-9
- Obviously, the church of Sardis had been offended in some way (v.9) and Jesus encouraged them that He will personally respond in their defense as the Bridegroom.
- We will all be offended and tempted to take revenge. The world will know that we belong to Jesus when we trust God for our defense, and bless those who hurt us.

# 4. Patiently Endure

- “Since you have kept my command to **endure patiently**,  
I will also keep you from the hour of trial...” Rev 3:10
- “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4
- This passage teaches us that every trial that we endure is a blessed test of our faith that is producing endurance in us and bringing us into spiritual maturity and the fullness of Christ. That is why we can find joy in every trial and hardship that we endure.

# 4. Patiently Endure

- We don't necessarily enjoy the trials we endure; but we are commanded to find joy and peace, knowing that God will use these hardships to make us better for Him.
- I find it interesting that this command to patiently endure comes on the heels of being offended and leaving retribution to Jesus. Some of the most difficult trials that we endure are the tests of forgiving those who offend us and refusing to vindicate ourselves. In my opinion, when we do this, we are most like Jesus.
- What really difficult things are you experiencing right now? Will you commit to patiently endure? To you Jesus says, “I am coming soon. **Hold on** to what you have.”

# The Promise

- In this passage (v.12), Jesus promised that if we will keep His word; be faithful to Him; not seek revenge; and patiently endure hardship - He will cause us to be overcomers in this world.
- As overcomers, we will enjoy:
  - ◆ being a consistent testimony of God's greatness
  - ◆ unbroken fellowship with God
  - ◆ assurance in our eternal salvation when Jesus returns
  - ◆ becoming a new person through Jesus' work in us