

2. Somehow the church members in Sardis were good at SHOWING they were Christians – *maybe by faithfully attending church and trying to live good lives*; nevertheless, IN REALITY, many of them had already met their spiritual death and others were drawing closer and closer every day!
3. In regard to some active churches and church members in today’s world – (See Becker, pages 62-63).

**Word of Admonition:** <sup>3</sup> **“Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent.”**

- Earlier they – *by grace* – had ♦heard, ♦understood, and ♦eternally benefitted from God’s Word; from such things came Christian fruit – *they lived the Word!* But over time they slipped away from the Word and its life-giving blessings; therefore, Jesus called them to repent – *and with the call came the power to do so!*

<sup>3b</sup> **“If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.”**

4. “I will come like a thief” – (See Becker, page 63).
5. “you will not know” – οὐ μὴ in the Greek text is the strongest negative; *“You will never ever find out!”*

**Word of Promise:** <sup>5</sup> **“He who overcomes...I will not erase his name from the book of life...”** – (See Becker, page 65).

**Next Week: We will focus on Revelation 3:7-13**

This and other sermons are available on Bethlehem’s website: [www.blc7500.com](http://www.blc7500.com)  
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# “The Book of Revelation”

**A Summary of 1:1 through 3:6 – Part 2 of 2**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – 2011*

**Sunday, May 8 → 8:00 & 10:45**

**Wednesday, May 11 → 7:00 p.m.**

## General Information about Revelation

1. Summary – *In Christ we win!*
2. Purpose – To encourage Christians to ♦stand firm, ♦not shrink back, and ♦look forward to Jesus’ *final* victory!
3. Seven Churches – The entire book was written to the seven churches (1:4), *which represent all NT Churches.*

## Revelation 2:12-17 – Letter to the Church in Pergamum

**Word of Commendation:** <sup>13</sup> **“I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you...”**

1. “Satan's throne” – *“Pergamum was a place where Satan was especially active and exercised a great deal of influence. That influence is directed especially toward winning Christians **away** from their faith or*

**preventing** men from **being brought** to faith.” (Becker, 54)

2. “you hold fast My name” – (See Becker, page 55).

**Word of Promise:** <sup>17</sup> “To him who **overcomes**, ...I will give him a **white stone**...”

3. “overcomes” – <sup>NAU</sup> **1 John 5:5** “Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

4. “a white stone” – Stones were used in ancient Greek courts of law as voting ballots; *white was for acquittal. Those who overcome through Jesus will be declared innocent by God!*

#### Revelation 2:18-29 – Letter to the Church in Thyatira

**Word of Criticism:** <sup>20</sup> “...I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who...teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit *acts of immorality*... <sup>21</sup> ...I **gave her time to repent**; and **she does not want to repent of her immorality.**”

1. “I gave her time to repent” – **Ezekiel 18:32** “For I...”

2. “she does not want to repent of her immorality” – <sup>NAU</sup> **Romans 1:32** “...and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.” <sup>NAU</sup> **2 Thess. 1:9** “These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord...”

<sup>22</sup> “Behold, I will cast her upon a bed *of sickness*, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. <sup>23</sup> ...I will kill her children with pestilence; and **all the churches will know** that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and **I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.**”

3. “all the churches will know” – (See Becker, page 59); <sup>NAS</sup> **Nahum 1:3** “The Lord is slow to anger and great in...”

4. “I will give to each one of you according to your deeds” – <sup>NAS</sup> **Galatians 6:7-8** “Do not be deceived, God is not...”

**Call to Hear:** <sup>29</sup> “**He who has an ear**, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

5. He who has an ear – God has given us an ear – *by grace through faith*, so let us use it to *listen carefully* and *respond faithfully!*

#### Revelation 3:1-6 – Letter to the Church in Sardis

**Description of the Speaker:** “He who has the **seven Spirits of God**...”

1. “...when John wrote Revelation the congregation in Sardis was at the point of dying out.” (Becker, 61) When spiritual life is dying or dead, *the Giver of Life is needed!* We confess in the Nicene Creed: “And I believe in the Holy Spirit, **the Lord and giver of life**...”

**Word of Criticism:** “**I know your deeds**, that **you have a name** [*reputation*] **that you are alive, but you are dead.**”