**The Book of**

**Revelation**

Lesson Number Seven

**“Walk Through the Bible” Series**

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Sardis was about 40 miles from Smyrna.

**Message to the Pastor at Sardis**

This was the fifth of the seven letters that Jesus wrote to the pastors of the churches in Asia Minor.

**Revelation 3:1-6 (NLT)**

1 “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: “I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead. 2 Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. **I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God** (some versions say, “Your works are not perfect before God)**.** 3 Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don’t wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief. 4 “Yet there are some in the church in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes with evil. They will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5 All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine. 6 “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

Jesus refers to Himself as the one who has the **SEVENFOLD** Spirit of God and the seven stars.

We know that seven represents “fullness.” God’s Spirit is full or complete and along with the rest of the Godhead is:

1. Omnipotent – All powerful. God sets certain laws into motion though and by those laws God will not do certain things. For instance, **God gives man and angels free will**. He will not violate that free will and force anyone to serve Him.
2. Omnipresent – Through God’s Spirit, He can be anywhere at anytime. This is how the Holy Spirit can dwell in each us and we can all be saved.
3. Omniscient – God is all knowing however, He still allows men to make their own choices in life.

Jesus walked the earth in the **FLESH.** Jesus was NOT any of these three things when He was on the face of the earth as a man before His resurrection. He was God but He willingly stripped off His **DEITY** and laid it aside. He had to walk this life completely as a man without any of the attributes of his deity in order to pay the price for our sins.

**Philippians 2:6-8 (NLT)**

6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

**1 John 2:22 (NLT)**

22 And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist.

**1 John 4:1-3 (WEY)**

1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but put the spirits to the test to see whether they are from God; for many false teachers have gone out into the world. 2 The test by which you may recognize the Spirit of God is that every spirit which acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come as man is from God, 3 and that no spirit is from God which does not acknowledge this about Jesus. Such is the spirit of the anti-Christ; of whose coming you have heard, and it is already in the world.

Jesus walked and operated in the Spirit from the time of His first **MIRACLE** (changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee Jn. 2:1-11) until his resurrection. Everything miraculous that He did was only through the anointing of the Holy Spirit which is the same power we have in our lives!

**The SAME Holy Spirit that dwelled in Jesus dwells in us. Jesus was filled with the FULLNESS of the Spirit of God. Individually, we are NOT filled with the complete fullness of the Holy Spirit but as “The Body of Christ” we ARE filled with the FULLNESS of the HOLY SPIRIT.**

**That is why we need each other! We all have specific callings and anointings on our lives! A body is incomplete without a head. It is incomplete without an arm. It is incomplete without any separate body part!**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NLT)**

12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. 13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. 14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. 15 If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? 18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21 The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” 22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. 23 And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24 while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. 25 This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. 27 All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.

Jesus felt power go out of Himself when the woman with the issue of blood touched Him in faith (Luke 8:43-48)! That was the Holy Spirit working through Him. The Holy Spirit can work through us just like that!

There were four things about the church at Sardis.

1. God knew their works. **This is repeated to EACH CHURCH!**
2. They had a name or a reputation of being a “**LIVE CHURCH**” but in reality were “dead!”
   1. Do you think the people in the Church in Sardis thought they were alive?
   2. Do you think they knew they were putting on a façade and they knew they weren’t right with God?
   3. You may see a church that looks alive but the way they look on the outside is not always the way they are on the inside!
   4. Too many Christians are looking for a “Rock Concert” when they go to church instead of desiring the sincere Word of God. Christians want to be entertained.
      1. Worship is good and something we need to do to draw us into the throne room of God but the Word of God is what grows us.
      2. **A WORSHIP LEADER’S job is to be INVISIBLE**. He should lead people into the throne room of God!
      3. Even gambling casinos have all the bells and whistles and lights.
      4. There is nothing wrong with a church having great music and lights and fog but make sure they teach the Word!

If you are looking for lights and music, etc., be careful you aren’t pulled into a church that is really not teaching God’s uncompromised Word.

1. Their works were not perfect before God (**Did NOT meet God’s REQUIREMENTS**).
   1. What is the purpose for your works?
      1. Why do you come to church each week?
      2. Do You come to church every week?
      3. God looks more at our heart than our accomplishments.

How Important is it to be in Church?

**Psalm 92:13-14 (BBE)**

13 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord will come up tall and strong in his gardens.14 They will give fruit even when they are old; they will be fertile and full of growth;

* 1. Do you work for the Lord to put on a “religious face?”
  2. Do you work for the Lord as service for Him because you LOVE Him?
  3. Your works are what you do every day, not just inside the walls of the Church!

1. **MOST** of the members in the Church in Sardis were not godly.
   1. Very few were godly!
   2. Some had still not gotten into the things of the world.
   3. **I pray that we do not become a “clique” in our Life Group and in our Church!**

Jesus gave five commands to the Church in Sardis.

1. Wake up! Or “Be watchful” – Pay attention to how you are living your Christian life.
2. Strengthen the things that remain.
3. Remember what you learned and were taught when you first believed.
4. Hold on tightly to those things you first learned.
5. Repent and turn back to the Lord and the foundations of the doctrines of Christ.

**We spent 18 weeks studying the “Doctrines of Christ.” We spent 7 months from November 2015 to June 2016 establishing and re-establishing the Doctrines of Christ in our lives because they are THAT IMPORTANT!**

**Promises to the Overcomer**

1. Walk with Me in white (Rev. 3:4)

2. Be clothed in white clothing (raiment) (Rev. 3:5; cp. Rev. 3:18; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9,13; 15:6; 19:8,14)

3. I will not blot his name out of the book of life (Rev. 3:5; cp. Rev. 22:18-19; Ex. 32:32-33; Ps. 69:28)

4. I will confess his name before My Father and the angels (Rev. 3:5)

Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

**The Book of Life**

What is the Book of Life?

It is a book that the names of the righteous are written in.

When a person is born, their name is written in the Book of Life and if they do not turn to Jesus, their names are blotted out of the book.

The first mention of the Book of Life:

**Exodus 32:31-33 (NLT)**

31 So Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a terrible sin these people have committed. They have made gods of gold for themselves. 32 But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, erase my name from the record you have written!” 33 But the LORD replied to Moses, **“No, I will erase the name of everyone who has sinned against me.**

When everyone is **BORN**, their name is in the book of Life.

Evil people’s names will be **ERASED** from the book of Life.

**Psalm 69:28 (NLT)**

28 Erase their names from the Book of Life; don’t let them be counted among the righteous.

**Daniel 12:1 (NLT)**

1 “At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued.

This is speaking of the people who come to know Christ **AFTER** the rapture. The Church will be in heaven during Daniel’s 70th week or the 7 year tribulation.

**Revelation 3:5 (NLT)**

5 All who are victorious will be clothed in white. **I will never erase their names from the Book of Life**, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.

Your name can be **BLOTTED** out and **then put back in**. We see this with the example of Aaron, Moses’s brother. (Ex. 32:33)

Aaron was involved in making the golden calf when Moses was up receiving the two stone tablets with the ten commandments.

God erased everyone’s names from the book of Life that were involved but later Aaron’s name was put back into the book of Life and he served God as high priest for 38 years.

**The Book of Life**

This is the first mention of the book of God in which the names of the righteous are written. It is referred to in Scripture under various terms: "Thy book" and "My book" (Ex. 32:32-33); "the book of the living" (Ps. 69:28); "the book" (Dan. 12:1); "the book of life" (Php. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:11-15; 22:18-19); and "the Lamb's book of life" (Rev. 21:27). Just because "book of life" does not appear in all of these passages does not mean the reference in any one instance is to something else. Just as we have several names for the Bible -- "the holy scriptures" (Rom. 1:2; 2Tim. 3:15); "the oracles of God" (Rom. 3:2; Heb. 5:12; 1Pet. 4:11); "the law and the prophets" (Lk. 24:25-44); "the word of God" (Mk. 7:13; Rom. 10:17; Heb. 4:12); "the sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17); and others -- so we have several names for the book of life.

Here God confirmed Moses' belief that names can and will be blotted out of the book of life when men incur the eternal death penalty (Ex. 32:33). The psalmist predicted it in the case of Judas (Ps. 69:20-28). Christ warned of it regarding all who would not overcome sin (Rev. 3:5; 22:18-19). This -- God's word, not man's -- is definite, not doubtful; it is universal and eternal in application, not local and limited.

**Seven Proofs that Aaron's Name Was in the Book of Life**

1. He was born again (Dt. 32:18).

  2. He was holy (Ex. 19:6; 22:31; Lev. 11:44-45; 21:6-8).

` 3. He had his name written in heaven (Ex. 32:32-33).

4. He was a prophet (Ex. 7:1).

  5. He was a miracle worker (Ex. 7:1-17; 8:6,16; 11:10; 12:1; Ps. 77:20).

6. He was in God's grace or favor until he sinned in the matter of the golden calf, for he was in charge of all Israel at that time (Ex. 24:14; 32:1).

  7. He had seen God and had eaten with Him on Sinai (Ex. 24:1-11).

**Aaron Had His Name Blotted Out**

This is what God said He would do for those who had sinned in the matter of the golden calf (Ex. 32:32-33). That Aaron sinned is plainly stated (Ex. 32:1-6,21-24,30); therefore, it can only be concluded that his name was blotted out along with names of others who sinned at that time. Both God and Moses said that Aaron sinned (Ex. 32:7-10,30-33). Aaron was a special object of God's wrath (Dt. 9:20).

**Aaron Was Forgiven and Spared**

God forgave Aaron and others in Israel after much intercession by Moses, and after atonement was made and sin acknowledged (Ex. 32:11-14,30-33; Dt. 9:12-21). After his name was blotted out and put back in the book of life, he continued as high priest for about thirty-eight years (Ex. 39; Lev. 6:9; 8:1-36; 13:1; 16:1-23).

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**The Message to the Pastor of the Church in Philadelphia**

Philadelphia was about 30 miles southeast of Sardis.

**Revelation 3:7-13 (NLT)**

7 “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Philadelphia. This is the message from the one who is holy and true, the one who has the **key of David**. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open. 8 “I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me. 9 Look, I will force those who belong to Satan’s synagogue—those liars who say they are Jews but are not—to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love. 10 “Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world. 11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. 12 All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name. 13 “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

Jesus refers to Himself as the one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David.

Keys signify **POWER** and **AUTHORITY**. Jesus has the key of David and the keys of death and hell.

**The “Key of David” represents that Jesus holds AUTHORITY over the Davidic Covenant (God told David that his seed would sit on the throne and rule the earth). Jesus is the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant!**

Four things about Philadelphia:

1. Works – Jesus knew everything each of the churches did. Do you think He knows what we are doing in our church?

**Galatians 6:7 (KJV)**

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

1. He opened a door for the Philadelphians that no one can close.

1. They had just a little strength but did not deny Jesus.

Even with just a little strength, you can still obey the Word of God and do what He says. It only takes a little faith to move mountains!

The disciples came to Jesus and asked why they were not able to cast a demon out of a boy. Jesus responded:

**Matthew 17:20 (KJV)**

20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

**Mark 11:22-24 (KJV)**

22  And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23  or verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24  herefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

1. Kept My Word

**Luke 11:28 (NLT)**

28 Jesus replied, “But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.”

5. Not denied My name – Because of this, Jesus would give them strength to get through times of testing.

Ten predictions -- four fulfilled; six future:

1. I will expose all liars (Rev. 3:9).

2. I will humble them before you.

3. I will confirm My love of you to them.

4. I will keep you from persecution (Rev. 3:10).

**Revelation 3:10 (KJV)**

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

This **DOES NOT** refer to the rapture of the Church and Daniel’s 70th week (7 years of tribulation) but rather a time of testing that was to come upon the church in John’s day!

**REMEMBER, the book of Revelation is CHRONOGICAL** and the rapture does not happen until these things are fulfilled with the 7 churches AND THEY HAVE BEEN!

**Every prophecy that had to be fulfilled before the Rapture of the Church has occurred! The Rapture can occur at any moment now!**

The rapture is the great hope for the church.

 5. I will come quickly (Rev. 3:11; 1:7; 19:11).

 6. I will make you a pillar in the temple of My God (Rev. 3:12; cp. Gal. 2:9). **He will establish you!**

 7. You will never go out, but will always have a safe dwelling place (Rev. 3:12).

8. I will give you God's name (Rev. 3:12).

9. I will give you the name of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12; Rev. 21:2,9-10).

10. I will give you My new name (Rev. 3:12).

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Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea