

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**Revelation 3****Revelation 3**

In Revelation three the Lord addresses three churches Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. The Church at Philadelphia is unique among the churches in that the Lord has no negative words to say to these faithful people. They had little strength but had been faithful to the Lord in difficult circumstances. The Lord Himself had set before them an "open door" that no man could shut. This church is also promised to be delivered from the hour of trial that will be upon the earth. This is surely a reference to those in the church who truly love Jesus and are born again, being saved from the unprecedented Day of the LORD, the great tribulation that will come upon the earth in the future.

The letters to the seven churches end with a sad and stern letter to the church at Laodicea. The city of Laodicea was known for its hot springs and the medicinal use of those springs. The Lord had nothing bad to say about the church at Philadelphia but had nothing good to say about the church at Laodicea. The Lord expresses Himself and identifies Himself with one or more of the attributes that were given in chapter one as the all-encompassing God. In this letter to the Laodiceans, He identifies Himself as the

"Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, The Beginning of the Creation of God." (v.14) He is Faithful, the True Witness, the opposite of the people who were the church of Laodicea. The church had been anything but faithful and true. They were not the Amen, which is a word of strength and affirmation. The wishy-washy church at Laodicea would not stand for anything they should have, nor would they stand against what they should have stood against. **"I know your deeds; you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were one or the other! So because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to vomit you out of My mouth!"** (Revelation 3:15-16) To each church the Lord reminds them that He knows everything about them. He uses the word for experiential knowledge, the reason is the Lord Jesus walks among the churches then and now and knows not only what each church does as a whole but knows the heart of every member of every church. He saw the attitude of indifference toward Him and sin. He would rather they were "cold" than be "lukewarm" or tepid about their relationship and walk with God. So it is with each of us.

Prayer and Action Steps

Christianity, if false is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance.

The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.

Clive Staples (C.S.) Lewis, Nov. 29, 1898-Nov 22, 1963