

# Revelation

Lesson 4

Chapter 3

<http://www.bwaychurch.org/the-book-of-revelation/>



**BROADWAY**  
*Church of Christ*

HOME ABOUT LEADERSHIP MEDIA GET CONNECTED EVENTS CONTACT WAYSTATION

## The Book of Revelation



Dr. Rodney Thomas teaches through the book of Revelation on Sunday mornings with the Anchors Class at Broadway. Each lesson is roughly 40-45 minutes in length.

Dr. Thomas uses a Powerpoint presentation for each of his lessons.

These presentations have been converted to PDF so that you may download and follow along if you wish:

### REVELATION POWERPOINT

[Lesson 1](#)  
[Lesson 2](#)



"Revelation Lesson 1"  
DR. RODNEY THOMAS



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| 1. "Revelation Lesson 1" — DR. RODNEY THOMAS | 45:29 |
| 2. "Revelation Lesson 2" — DR. RODNEY THOMAS | 47:35 |



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# The Message to the Seven Churches

- ◆ Revelation 2:1-3:22

# Revelation Chapter 3

- ◆ <sup>1</sup> And to the angel of the church of Sardis write: these things says the one having the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works; that you have a reputation that you are alive and you are dead."

# Revelation 3:2-3

- ◆ <sup>2</sup> “Become alert and strengthen what remains, what is to die, for I have not found your works to have been fulfilled before my God. <sup>3</sup> Therefore remember what you have received and heard and obey and repent. If you do not become alert, I will come as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”

# Revelation 3:4-6

- ◆ <sup>4</sup> “But you have a few names (**ὀνόματα** persons) in Sardis who have not defiled their clothing, and they will walk with me in (dressed in) white, because they are **worthy (ἄξιοί)**. <sup>5</sup> Thus the one conquering will be clothed in white clothing and I will not wipe out his name from the book of life and I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. <sup>6</sup> Let the one having an ear hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

# Judgment

- ◆ “Why did John not simply shower the churches with love and praise? Because John was a prophet and prophets have very high standards. But also because people and churches, then and now, who become morally lax and spiritually lazy, who abandon the faith journey for a self-satisfied dwelling place veneered with the pretense of religion, and who continue to be told how wonderfully perfect they are, tend to sink in the mire of their own lethargy and sin.”
- ◆ Joseph R. Jeter Jr., “I Have This Against You,” *Preaching Through the Apocalypse: Sermons from Revelation*, ed. Cornish R. Rogers and Joseph R. Jeter Jr. (St. Louis: Chalice, 1992), 71.

# Revelation 3:7-8

- ◆ <sup>7</sup> And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: these things says the holy one, the true one, who holds the key of David, the one opening and no one closes and the one closing and no one opens. <sup>8</sup> “I know your works, behold I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to close, because you have little power and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.”



# Revelation 3:9-10

- ◆ <sup>9</sup> “Behold, I will deliver from the synagogue of Satan the ones saying to themselves they are Jews, and they are not, but are lying. Behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will know that I loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you kept my word of steadfast endurance, I will keep you from the hour of **temptation** (**πειρασμοῦ**) that is about to come upon the whole world to tempt the ones dwelling upon the earth.”

# Revelation 3:11-13

- ◆ <sup>11</sup> “I am coming quickly; hold on to what you have, in order that no one takes your crown. <sup>12</sup> The one who conquers I will make a pillar in the temple of God and he will never depart from it and I will write upon him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, the one coming down out of heaven from my God, and my new name. <sup>13</sup> Let the one who has an ear to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.”

# Revelation 3:14-16

- ◆ <sup>14</sup> And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write; these things I say, the amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation: <sup>15</sup> "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> Thus because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to vomit you out of my mouth.

# Isaiah 65:15-17

- ◆ <sup>15</sup> You shall leave your name to my chosen to use as a curse, and the Lord GOD will put you to death; but to his servants he will give a different name. <sup>16</sup> Then whoever invokes a blessing in the land shall bless by the God of faithfulness, and whoever takes an oath in the land shall swear by the God of faithfulness; because the former troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my sight. <sup>17</sup> For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. NRSV

# Colossians 1:15-20

- ◆ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. NRSV

# Revelation 3:14-16

- ◆ <sup>14</sup> And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write; these things I say, the amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation: <sup>15</sup> "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> Thus because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to vomit you out of my mouth.

Start Week 5

# Revelation 3:17-18

- ◆ <sup>17</sup> “Because you say that I am rich and I have become wealthy and I need nothing, and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold having been refined by fire in order that you might become rich, and (buy) white clothing in order to clothe yourself (yourself), and to keep the shame of your nakedness and salve to anoint your eyes in order that you might see.”



# Revelation 3:19-20

- ◆ <sup>19</sup> “I reprove and discipline the ones whom I love; be earnest therefore and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I have been standing at the door and knocking; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door [and] I enter to him and I will dine with him and he with me.”

- ◆ A very common but false interpretation of this text is that the church in Laodicea is materially rich but spiritually poor and that Jesus is advising it to be also spiritually rich. . . . In this false interpretation the important thing is spiritual poverty or wealth, and material poverty or wealth means nothing. What Revelation is really demanding of the church in Laodicea is that it stop being lukewarm, gnostic, and Nicolaitan, that is, that it stop being rich like the idolatrous and oppressive Romans, that it not become rich by exploiting others, and that it cease being haughty and self-sufficient. If its rich in this fashion it will be (materially and spiritually) wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Jesus is not simply urging it to be spiritually rich, but to strive (materially and spiritually) for a wealth that is not acquired by exploiting others . . . that its behavior not be idolatrous, . . . that its conscience be clean. Pablo Richard, *Apocalypse: A People's Commentary on the Book of Revelation* (Maryknoll NY: Orbis Books, 1995), 62-63.



# Revelation 3:21-22

- ◆ <sup>21</sup> “To the one who conquers I will give him permission to sit with me on my throne, just as I conquered and sat with my father upon his throne. <sup>22</sup> Let the one having an ear to hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”