

Introduction: The Call to Remember

The speaker opens by adjusting the teaching schedule for the study of the Seven Churches of Revelation. The focus is shifted to two specific churches: Sardis and Philadelphia. A central theme is established: the necessity of remembering God's past faithfulness to maintain faith in His future promises.

I. The Church in Sardis: The Appearance of Life

- **Historical Context:** Sardis was a wealthy commercial hub famous for its textile industry and "crimson wool." Despite its prosperity and grand public buildings (theaters, stadiums, and temples), the city was significantly impacted by a devastating earthquake in A.D. 17.
- **The Spiritual Diagnosis:** Jesus describes Sardis as having a reputation for being alive while actually being "dead." The speaker likens them to "Christian Sadducees"—aristocratic, proper, and focused on "putting on a show" rather than spiritual vitality.
- **The Remedy:** The congregation is commanded to "be watchful," "remember," and "repent." The speaker emphasizes that if one cannot remember what God has done (e.g., the Exodus, the Red Sea), they cannot believe in what He will do.
- **The Promise:** A faithful remnant exists who have not "defiled their garments." They are promised white raiment and the assurance that their names will not be blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life.

II. The Church in Philadelphia: The Open Door

- **Historical Context:** Located in a volcanic region, Philadelphia was established as a "missionary city" to spread Greek culture. Due to frequent tremors, many residents lived in huts outside the city for safety.
- **The Spiritual Commendation:** Unlike Sardis, Philadelphia receives no rebuke. Jesus presents Himself as the one holding the "Key of David," who opens doors that no man can shut.
- **The Mission:** Despite having "little strength," the church kept God's word and did not deny His name. They are promised protection from the "hour of temptation" coming upon the world.
- **The Promise:** Overcomers are promised to be made "pillars" in the temple of God, inscribed with the name of God and the New Jerusalem.

Conclusion: Courage in the Modern Day

The speaker concludes by contrasting the persecution faced by Smyrna with the "open door" of Philadelphia. The message transitions to a modern context, citing contemporary martyrs in Nigeria and local examples of faith under fire. The final call is for courage and faithfulness to the name of Jesus.

Key Scripture References

- **Revelation 3:1-6:** The message to the church in Sardis.
 - **Revelation 3:7-13:** The message to the church in Philadelphia.
 - **Deuteronomy 8:2:** The command to remember the forty years in the wilderness to humble and prove the heart.
 - **Isaiah 22:22:** The prophecy regarding the Key of the House of David.
 - **Revelation 20:12:** The opening of the books and the Book of Life at the final judgment.
 - **Philippians 4:11-13:** Paul's testimony on being content in all states through Christ's strength.
 - **Matthew 10:16-22:** Jesus' warning that believers will be hated and delivered up for His name's sake.
-

Audience Reflection Section

- **Diagnostic Question:** Does your spiritual life rely on a "reputation" or "show," or is there genuine vitality?
 - **Memory as Fuel:** Can you list three specific instances where God provided for you in the past? How does recalling these events change your perspective on your current anxieties?
 - **The Open Door:** Are you looking for the "open doors" of opportunity to share your faith, or are you focused on the "closed doors" of cultural opposition?
 - **The Book of Life:** Is your confidence for the future based on your own works (the "other books") or on your name being written in the Lamb's Book of Life?
-

Actionable Takeaways

- **Practice Active Remembrance:** When facing a new trial, intentionally recount past deliverances to bolster faith.
- **Hold Fast to the Word:** Prioritize the preservation of scripture in daily life, as this was the primary reason for Philadelphia's commendation.
- **Prepare for the "Hour of Temptation":** Maintain spiritual watchfulness, recognizing that faithfulness today builds the strength needed for future trials.
- **Reject Complacency:** Avoid the "Sardis condition" by seeking a spiritual awakening rather than settling for religious tradition or social acceptance.