

Structure of the Seven Letters

Rev 3:2-6

| | Ephesus, 2:1-7 | Smyrna, 2:8-11 | Pergamos, 2:12-17 | Thyatira, 2:18-29 | Sardis, 3:1-6 | Philadelphia, 3:7-13 | Laodicea, 3:14-22 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Command to write | 1a | 8a | 12a | 18a | 1a | 7a | 14a |
| Title from ch. 1 | 1b | 8b | 12b | 18b | 1b | 7b | 14b |
| Message | 2-6 | 9-10 | 13-16 | 19-25 | 1c-4 | 8-11 | 15-20 |
| I know thy works | 2a | 9a | 13a | 19a | 1c | 8a | 15a |
| Praise | 2-3 | 9b | 13 | 19 | | 8-11 | |
| Exhortation | | 10 | | | | 11b | |
| Criticism | 4-5 | | 14-16 | 20-23 | 2-3 | | 15-20 |
| Exhortation | 5 | | 16 | | 3 | | 18-19 |
| Praise | 6 | | | 24 | 4 | | |
| Exhortation | 5 | 10 | 16 | 25 | 3 | 11b | 18-19 |
| Promise to Overcomers | | | | 26-28 | 5 | 12 | 21 |
| Let him hear | 7a | 11a | 17a | 29 | 6 | 13 | 22 |
| Promise to Overcomers | 7b | 11b | 17b | | | | |

First Aid for an Ailing Church

2a Be watchful

Psa. 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Matt. 24:42 **Watch**

therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

1Pet. 5:8 Be sober, **be vigilant (watch)**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

2b strengthen the things which remain, that ~~are ready to die~~ thou wast about to cast out

Ezek 34:4 The diseased have ye not **strengthened**, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was **driven away**, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. ... 16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was **driven away**, and will bind up that which was broken, and will **strengthen** that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

Jer. 23:1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and **scatter** the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. 2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have **scattered** my flock, and **driven them away**, and have not visited them:



1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

- What is our defense against the devil?

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Bilson Peters

First Aid for an Ailing Church (cont.)

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard,

Rev. 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,

Hold fast:

τηρέω G5083,
not κρατέω
G2902 (as in
2:13, 25; 3:11)

Keep, observe
the Lord's words:
1:3; 3:8, 10;
12:17; 14:12;
22:7, 9

and repent (cf. Ephesus (2:5), Pergamos (2:16), Thyatira (2:21, 22), Laodicea (3:19))

Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Luk 24:47 And that **repentance** and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

2 Cor 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to **repentance**: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh **repentance** to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. 11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

More Helpful References

3b **I will come on thee as a thief ...**

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else **I will come unto thee quickly**, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Rev 2:16 Repent; or else **I will come unto thee quickly**, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not **defiled** μολύνω G3435 their garments;

1Cor. 8:7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is **defiled**.

Rev. 14:4 These are they which were not **defiled** with women;

Promises to Sardinian Overcomers: White Clothing

Rev 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in **white raiment**; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

Rev 6:11 And **white robes** were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with **white robes**, and palms in their hands; ... 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in **white robes**? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and **made them white in the blood of the Lamb**.

Rev 19:7 for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be **arrayed in fine linen, clean and white**: for the fine linen is the **righteousness [righteous deeds] of saints**.

Rev 19:14 ... the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, **clothed in fine linen, white and clean**.

Promises to Sardinian Overcomers: Book of Life

Php 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, **whose names are in the book of life.**

| | Past Facts | Future Purposes |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| People's Actions | 1. Record Book (OT, NT) | 2. Book of Decrees (OT, NT) |
| People's States | 3. Book of the Living (OT) | 4. Book of Life (NT, maybe OT) |

1) Est 6:1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the **book of records** of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books** were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of **those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**

2) Psa 139:16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and **in thy book** all ~~my members~~ were written, ~~which in continuance~~ the days were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

Rev 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne **a book** written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

3) Psa 69:27 Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness. 28 **Let them be blotted out of the book of the living,** and not be written with the righteous.

4) Rev 17:8 ... they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written [do not stand written] in **the book of life** from the foundation of the world

Helpful References on 3:5

I will not blot out ...

Figure of speech: Litotes—
emphasize a truth by negating its
opposite.

Acts 8:21 **thy heart is not right** in
the sight of God. = thy heart is
very wicked

Acts 26:19 Whereupon, O king
Agrippa, **I was not disobedient**
unto the heavenly vision: = I did
exactly as I was told

Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth
me shall come to me; and him that
cometh to me **I will in no wise
cast out.** = I will absolutely
receive him, without question

I will confess ...

Matt. 10:32 Whosoever
therefore shall confess me
before men, **him will I
confess also before my
Father** which is in heaven.

Luke 12:8 Also I say unto
you, Whosoever shall
confess me before men, **him
shall the Son of man also
confess before the angels
of God:**