

Vision – Intention - Means **VIM and the** **7 Churches of Revelation**

Ephesus, Pergamum and Thyatira:

Low V; High I; Moderate M

"I know your deeds, your hard work and perseverance...You have endured hardships for my name and not grown weary....Yet you have forsaken your first love." Rev 2:1-4

Message: All three churches seem to be doing good ministry. However the Ephesian church lost the vision of their first love. What is needed is a renewal of the heart. Both the Pergamum and the Thyatira church need a renewal of their minds. They are both tolerating false teachers/prophets. Their vision of the truth needs recalibrating. Both churches are urged to return to truth.

Remedy: Spiritual and theological renewal, confrontation and repentance

Sardis:

Low V; Low I; Low M

"You have the reputation for being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! strengthen what remains and is about to die. For I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God." Rev 3:1-2

Message: Wake up! You are happy in your own little world of denial. You think you are alive, but you are dead. You think you are willing, but you are not. You think you are able, but you are not. You are on a course that is not hopeful. But if you want to stay on this course, the results will be what they will be. You may not want to face the truth about yourselves, but here are the implications of not changing...

Remedy: Reality check, obedience, repentance.

Philadelphia and Smyrna:

High V; High I; Low M

"I know you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name." Rev 3:8
"I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich" Rev 2:9

Message: You do not have much ministry muscle or horsepower but figure out what you do have (asset based thinking). Go with that. Find your foothold based on what God has given you. Take small steps and those small steps can turn into small successes. Those small successes can turn into momentum for greater resources to do more. It is these churches that the Spirit speaks to with the most warmth. A willing heart means so much to the Lord!

Remedy: "Hold on to what you have..." "Be faithful." Learn to think out of abundance and not scarcity. These are the only two churches that are never told to repent. They are encouraged to use what little they do have and to be faithful to the end.

Laodicea:

Low V; Low I; High M

"So because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. yet you are lukewarm and I spit you out of my mouth."

Message: This is the church that God speaks most forcibly to...in love of course..."I rebuke you and discipline you." This is the church where Jesus is standing outside, knocking at the door. This is the kind of church to whom the prophets spoke harsh judgments. You are a comfortable church. You are squandering an opportunity to make the kind of difference God is calling you to make. I urge you to change. You are selling yourself short of being all you can be and what God can do through you. You are not realizing your full potential. You are blessed to be a blessing, so get serious about Jesus and authentic ministry.

Remedy: Be earnest about ministry. Repent. Open the door to Jesus and enjoy fellowship with him. Redeploy your resources for kingdom purposes.