

REVELATION

May 29, 2022 | Erwin Ramos

WARM-UP QUESTION: Have you ever participated in a race? How do you think you can keep going in one?

READ: Revelation 2:8–11, 18–29; 3:7–13

FOCUS: In order to persevere, we need to have a revelation of the returning Lord Jesus, to hear His call to repent and to heed the charge to be faithful until the end.

OBSERVE:

In Hebrews 12:1 it says, *“and let us run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us”*. Paul also said in his second letter to Timothy, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* In Revelation, the seven churches were encouraged to finish the race well.

The key to finishing well is the revelation of Jesus, the Son of God, Holy and True.

- To Thyatira, Jesus is described as One who has eyes like blazing fire and feet of burnished bronze.
- To Philadelphia, Jesus is described as the True and Holy One, and who has the key of David.
- To Smyrna, Jesus is the First and the Last, the One who died and came to life and eternal Redeemer.
- To Pergamum, Jesus references the sharp two-edged sword in His mouth.
- To Sardis, Jesus references the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

Jesus is active and present among the churches and is aware of our tests and triumphs. He compels us to repent of false teachings, idolatry, immorality, spiritual anemia and lethargy. He wants the church to thrive, and He wants you to thrive as a believer. Jesus will use the sword of His judgment for those who choose to pay their own debt of sin, instead of receiving Jesus' free gift of salvation. Jesus desires for us to be faithful to the end, to wake up to what He is calling us to do and to hold fast. This is in light of Jesus giving eternal rewards.

TAKE ACTION:

Set aside time this week to understand how your faith is a marathon that you need to finish well. Begin implementing these changes, which may require commitment, enrichment of your spiritual life through prayer, worship, fellowship and serious Bible study, all while continuing to serve.

REFLECT:

- Do you feel confident in your relationship with God? Do you think your commitment could weather challenges in order for you to remain joyful, loving, pure and faithful?
- How significant are the messages to each church to your faith in Christ?
 - 1) We will not be hurt by the second death (Smyrna).
 - 2) We will receive the hidden manna and the white stone of acquittal from guilt (Pergamum).
 - 3) We will rule and reign with Christ with authority over the nations (Thyatira).
 - 4) We will be clothed in white garments and our names will be in the lamb's book of life (Sardis).
 - 5) We will be kept from the coming hour of trial and will forever dwell in God's house (Philadelphia).

PRAY: *Father, move in my heart to bring a revelation of Jesus as the Son of God, Holy and True. Search my mind and heart and compel me to repent and be faithful to You until the end of my days. Make me a conqueror like Christ and may I reflect Him to a world in need of salvation, in Jesus' name, amen.*

