

4. The Church in Philadelphia. Read Rev. 3:7-13
- How is Jesus contrasted with the Jews in Philadelphia?
  - How might this encourage the weak church there?
  - What might the 'open door' represent? (cf. 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12)
  - In the Old Testament there are often prophecies of non-Jews coming to bow down before Jews (cf. Isa. 43:4; 45:14; 49:23; 60:14). What is implied by the fact that the Jews in Philadelphia will come and bow before the Christians?
  - What is the consequence of holding to Christ's name now? (cf. 3:8 and 3:12).

### Applying it to our lives

- In what ways does our church have a good reputation? Would Jesus describe our church as dead or alive?
- Why doesn't it matter if we feel weak like the church in Philadelphia? (cf. 3:8)
- What is the difference between promoting Jesus's reputation and our church's reputation?



**Week Beginning  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

### Growth Team News

Sadly, with the present Covid restrictions many of our Growth Teams are on pause. There are, however, a couple meeting on Zoom (see below). If you would like to give either of these a try this week, then please let Paul know on 01843 592562.

We continue our series on Jesus addressing the churches in Revelation 1-3. In the two letters to Sardis and Philadelphia we see why we need to worry about our reputation with Jesus and make sure we hold on to Jesus's name.

Even if you cannot join a Zoom Growth Team, please use this sheet with other members of your household or on your own Zoom. The sheet works best after watching the Sunday Sermon, which is available on You Tube or through our website.

**Mon.** 8:00pm *on Zoom*

**Thu.** 8.00pm *on Zoom*



**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever.**

## True Reputation

*Revelation 3:1-13* (page 1235 in church Bibles)

Space to take notes on the talk

It is your reputation with \_\_\_\_\_  
that counts:

- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
- A good \_\_\_\_\_?
- Sardis's History
- A \_\_\_\_\_ church
- \_\_\_\_\_!
- In the \_\_\_\_\_

It is holding on to \_\_\_\_\_  
that counts:

- Access to the \_\_\_\_\_
- The Promise \_\_\_\_\_

## Getting to know each other

- ❖ What church that you have heard of had the 'best reputation'?

## Responding to the talk

1. What struck you as most encouraging or challenging from this week's talk?
2. The Church in Sardis – Read 3:1-6
  - a. What point is Jesus making with his self-description in verse 1? (cf. 1:20 and 5:6).
  - b. What does Jesus see about the church in Sardis that others do not see?
  - c. If someone today says a church is 'alive', what might they mean by that?
  - d. What is wrong with the church in Sardis? (see Rev. 3:1, 2, 4).
  - e. How can we ensure our 'deeds are not unfinished'?
  - f. Who will have the white robes? (cf. Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14)
  - g. Why is it a privilege to be in the 'Book of Life'? (cf. Rev. 20:15; 21:27)
3. The Keys of David (Going deeper). Read Isa. 22:15-24
  - a. What is the problem with Shebna?
  - b. What privileges will Eliakim be given?
  - c. What connections can you see between the description of Jesus in Revelation 3:7 and this passage?
  - d. How is Eliakim's position symbolic of Jesus's role? (cf. Rev. 3:11-12)