



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 9.27.26

Revelation 3:1-13 // Rick Duncan

Please take the opportunity to revisit the CVC Equip
Portrait of a Healthy LifeGroup on a regular basis

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① On Sunday, Pastor Rick shared a story about a recurrent dream he has where he is stuck in quicksand between first and second base, and he keeps running but never gets to that next base. Do you have any dreams that you have over and over again, or can you think of a dream you've had that's so outrageous it makes you laugh?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Revelation 3:1-13.

- ① Review Revelation 3:1-6. Then read James 2:14-26. As Jesus said to the church in Sardis, "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God."

In one sense, the church in Sardis must have been doing some "works," because though they were "dead," they had "a reputation of being alive." Some kinds of works must have contributed, at least at some point, to that reputation. But on the other hand, Jesus said that their works were not complete in the sight of God.

- Consider the passage from James that you just read. Why are works an important element of authentic faith and trust in God, for churches and for individual Christians?
- Have you ever been through a season where you had "the reputation of being alive" but your faith was built more on a false reputation than on true, authentic, and current relationship with Jesus? If yes, what helped you walk (or is helping you walk) through that valley as you continue to live in a pattern of Christian repentance and reliance on Christ?

- ② Take a moment to read the blog post on the CVC blog entitled “Encouragement from a CVCer.” (<https://cvconline.org/encouragement-from-a-cvcer/>)
- What is something in this blog post that especially challenges you, encourages you, or stands out to you?
 - Revisit Ephesians 2:10 and consider again James 2:14-26. How do these two passages (along with Revelation 3:1-11) work together to give us a picture of how God views our faith, our works, and our lives as we seek to live for Him in response to the grace He has shown us and the work He has accomplished in us?
 - In this blog post, the author considers how in different seasons of life, Christians have varying opportunities and capacities for serving the Lord in different ways. Think about your season of life right now. What are some unique ways you can seek to trust in and live for the Lord based on your current “age and stage?”
- ③ Review Revelation 3:7-13. Even though they had “but little power,” the church in Philadelphia kept the Word of God and did not deny the name of Jesus Christ.
- Read verse 11 again. How can the church at Philadelphia serve as an example to us today as we consider what it looks like for the Western church, and for CVC in particular, to keep the Word, cling to Jesus, and hold fast to what we know to be true?
 - What do you think it looks like for us at CVC and as individual Christians to remember the reality that Jesus is coming soon, and for this truth to be reflected in our lives, choices, and passions?
- ④ Take a moment to review the questions on page 2 of the Sermon Notes for this week. Do any of these questions especially resonate with you in this season or particularly stand out to you? If so, why? If so - why do you think one doesn't?

RESOURCES

A Tale of Two Kingdoms Recommended Resources: https://cvconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/TaleOfTwo_Resources_CVC.pdf

CVC Blog: <https://cvconline.org/category/articles/>

To view CVC LaunchPad Devotions (mentioned at CVC's Vision Night):
<https://cvconline.org/launchpad/>

PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray that Jesus would keep us awake and strengthen us as individuals and as a congregation.
- Pray that we would not settle for having a reputation for being alive without the reality of being alive.
- Pray that we would remember what we have received and heard - that we would repent where we have drifted.
- Pray that Jesus would show us the works He has entrusted to us that remain unfinished.
- Pray that we would be like those in Sardis who have not soiled their garments and who walk faithfully with Christ.
- Pray that, like Philadelphia, we would faithfully keep Jesus' Word even when we have little strength.
- Pray that we would recognize and walk through the open doors Jesus places before us, trusting that what He opens no one can shut.
- Pray that we would hold fast to what we have and refuse to let anyone take our crown.
- Pray that we would overcome by faithfully completing the works God has prepared for us and receive the reward Christ has promised.



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment to share
these announcements with your group.

GENEROUS LIFE

Leave a Legacy, Not a Mess - October 6

As Christians, we should be very intentional about how we use the resources God has given us to steward, both while we are living and after we die. This FREE workshop will provide you with key estate planning information so that you can plan for you and your family's future. WHO SHOULD COME TO THIS? EVERYONE, regardless of age, marital status, or financial status. It is designed to serve those who do not have a will/trust in force and for those who have a will/trust that needs to be reviewed and updated. And if you have minor children, this will be extremely helpful because having a guardianship plan in place is a huge part of planning for your future in the event something happens to you. Register [HERE](#)

CONNECT

JOIN CVC - October 11

To become a member of our church, attendance at two classes is required. The first class is called Explore CVC, and the second is Join CVC. Completion of both is necessary for membership. Explore CVC is required before you can take Join CVC.

[Register here.](#)

Baptisms - October 18

Jesus commanded us to be baptized as an outward symbol of an inward commitment. It lets others know that we have left the old life behind and we have entered into new life in Christ. And every time we see a baptism, we'll remember the day we publicly promise that we will live for Jesus. Click [here](#) to learn more about baptism and apply for upcoming opportunities.