

"Aunt Kate"

TEACHES

REVELATION

VISUALIZED

A presentation of Revelation for Children of all ages.

Adaptable for Young People and Adults.

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LESSON 7

THE FUNERAL (THYATIRA AND SARDIS)

SCRIPTURE FOR TEACHER: Revelation 2:18—3:6; Malachi 4:1-2; Isaiah 11:2; Colossians 2:8; Ephesians 4:11.

MEMORY VERSE: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" John 3:36.

APPROACH: Last week we saw how Satan planned the things that went on at the church in Pergamos. Can Satan plan things in a church? Yes, if the people will let him. He can plan things for our life too, if we will let him, because he is trying to spoil God's plan on the earth.

Of the many churches we see around us, which one is God's church? God's church is not a special building in a certain place. It is made up of all the people who have taken the Lord Jesus into their hearts (John 1:12). The believers then become the body of the church, and Christ is the head (Ephesians 5:26-27; Colossians 1:18). (*Show "believers" and Christ circle.*) But Satan wants to act as though he is the head, as we will see today.

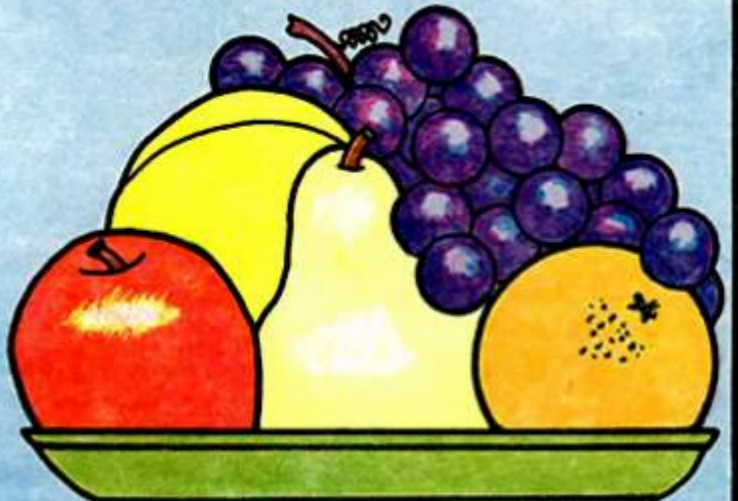
PRESENTATION: Today our faith plane takes us many years into the past, as we come to the church at Thyatira (*point out*). In the letter to this church, the Lord Jesus signs His name as "The Son of God." He is reminding us that He is the only true God and beside Him there is no other (Jude 25).

As the Lord Jesus looks at this church, His eyes are as a flame of fire and His feet like fine brass. As He looks into the hearts of His people here He sees some good. Three times He speaks of their works and once of their service. Perhaps they shared their food and clothing with needy people. The basket of food (*point out*) reminds us of their helpfulness to others. He also speaks of their love, faith and patience. These are part of the beautiful fruit of the Spirit which is God's own life (Galatians 5:22, 23).



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CHRIST



But the Lord Jesus is not pleased with all He sees here. (*Have all four "idols" in place over the other pictures.*) Although the church may be beautiful on the outside, there is something terrible on the inside. As we go in, we can see statues and images. This makes us remember the second commandment which says, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them" (Exodus 20:4, 5).

So the Lord Jesus looks beyond their works of charity and sees into their hearts of deceit. A beautiful building never fools Him. He looks right through it and says, "I know all about you, both the good and the bad. I have a few things against you."

In this church, one of the things the Lord Jesus had against the people was that they let a wicked woman named Jezebel, who called herself a prophetess, lead them into sin. She must have been like the Jezebel we learned about in the Old Testament. You remember she was the wicked wife of Ahab, the king of Israel. She worshipped idols, especially Baal. She hired false prophets who taught the people that it was all right to sin, and ordered the death of the true prophets who taught that God is holy and that He hates sin.

Ever since the time of the tower of Babel, most of the world has worshipped idols. Although men knew that there was only one true God, they turned from Him to idols and worshipped images of men, birds, beasts and snakes (Romans 1:21-23). So in this church, Jezebel is teaching the people that they can worship both God and these idols. They think they also can get their sins easily excused without the blood of Christ. But we cannot worship the true and living God until we let Him cleanse us from our sins by faith in the blood of the Lord Jesus. Then He will give us the life we must have to worship Him (John 4:24; 14:6).

Are images of wood, stone and plaster of Paris the only idols we can worship? Oh, no. We can make idols of many other things that are just as displeasing to God.

(*Remove image of man.*) A man may make an idol of his business; a woman may make an idol of her home, her car or her possessions. Whatever has first place in our heart becomes an idol.

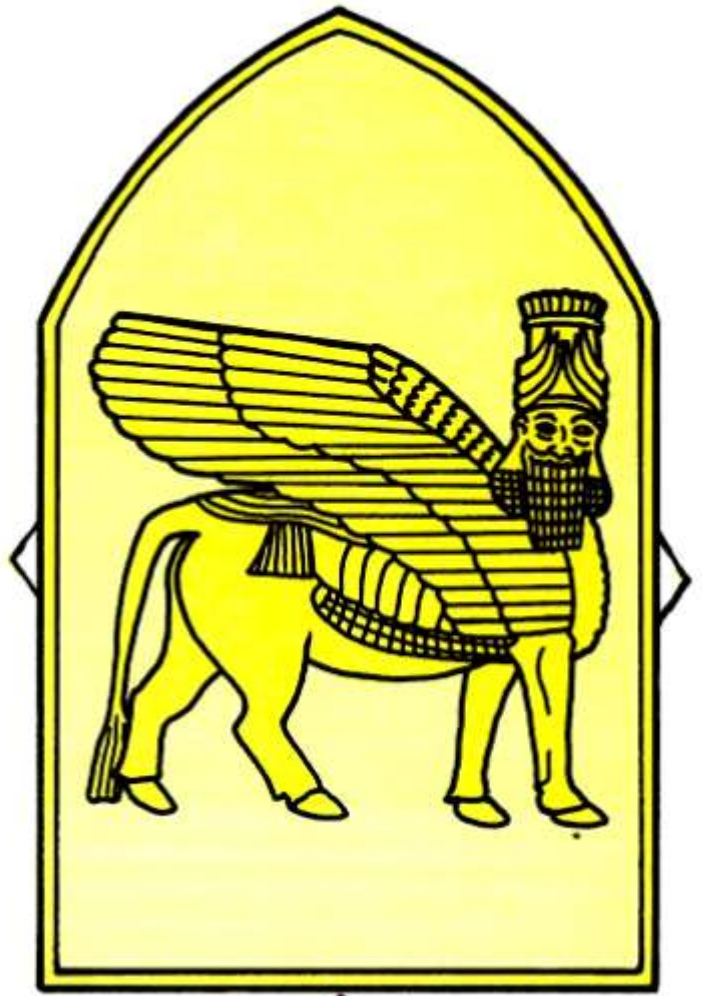
(*Remove image of bird.*) The most important thing in some lives is sports. To others, some type of entertainment, such as music, becomes an idol. How very many hours and dollars are spent on these!

(*Remove image of winged lion.*) In some hearts, loved ones have first place. Of course we love those near us, but they must never take the place of God in our affections.

(*Remove snake.*) Perhaps more than any other idol, TV claims our time and thought. It is said that the average American spends 5 or 6 hours every day looking at TV. Do you know anyone who spends that much time reading God's Word, talking to Him, and serving Him?

What is the idol in your life? There was once a boy who would rather ride his bicycle than read his Bible and spend time with God. It meant more to him than anything else. While others were in church, he rode up and down the street on his bicycle. Some young people idolize a movie star and try to follow him in the way they look and act.

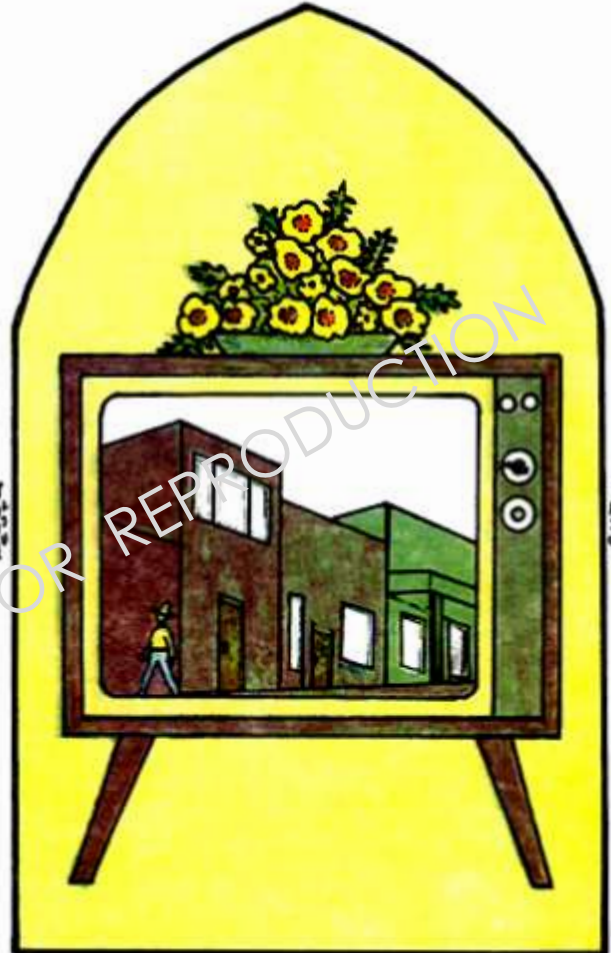
In spite of the idols in Thyatira, there were some people at this church who loved the Lord Jesus and refused to worship the false gods. God made a promise to those who overcame, that they should have the Morning Star, which is Christ Himself. Do you have an ear to hear what God's Spirit is saying to you through this letter?



CUT OUT AND
USE TO COVER MODERN
IDOLS PAGE 13



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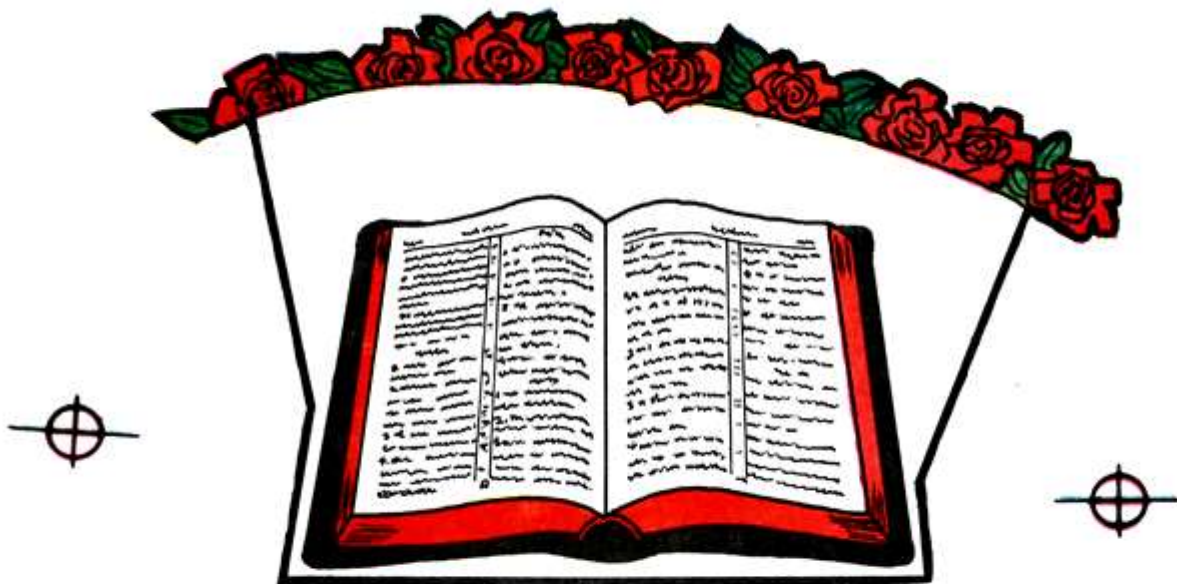
A little later we come to the church at Sardis. Satan has really been doing the thinking and planning for this church, because the Lord Jesus cannot say one good thing about it. He knows all about it. He signs Himself as the One with perfect power, reminding them that He has the seven stars in His hand. He can meet all their needs if they will just let Him.

At this church we will attend a funeral. Like the wedding at Pergamos, it is very strange. For the Truth of God (*tuck Bible behind casket*) is buried under all these flowers of good works. The minister conducting this funeral is the same one who had the wedding (*point out minister*). His assistants are Mr. Ceremony and a man who reads from a book of human philosophy instead of the Word of God.

In this church we find two kinds of people. There are the watchful ones (Revelation 3:2) and those who are not watchful (verse 3). (*Point out youths.*) The Lord tells them all to watch.

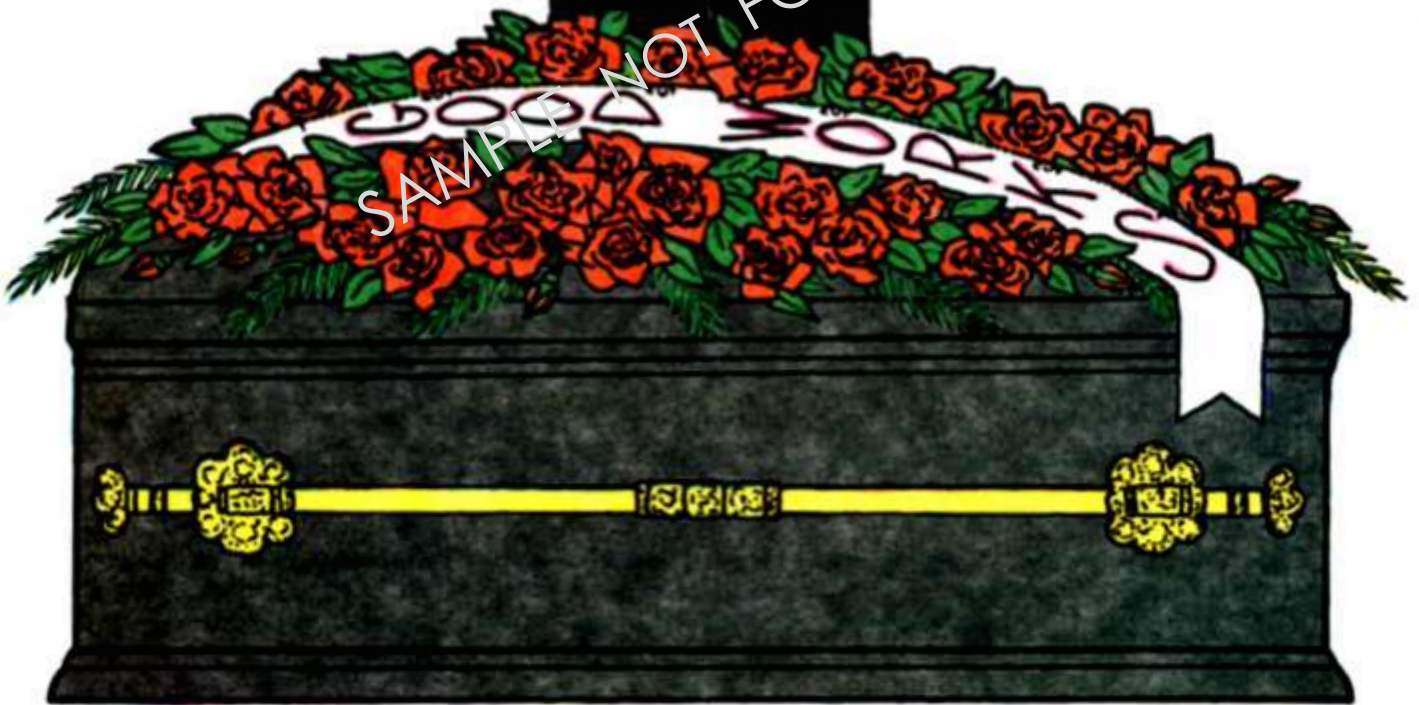
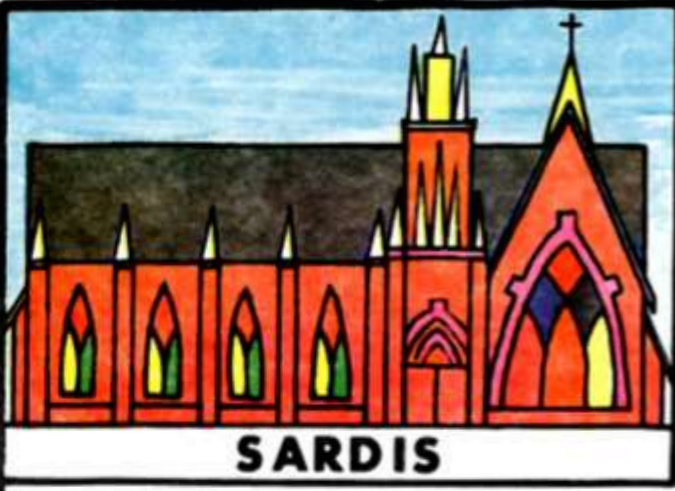
At the beginning of World War II there was a good soldier who was alert and watching for the enemy at Pearl Harbor. He saw the enemy planes coming. Faithfully, he reported what he saw to the officer in charge. But the officers did not believe his report, and so they refused his message. Suddenly the enemy planes arrived and destroyed many people. The good soldier was later given a medal of honor by the president of the United States, for his faithful watching.

We are to be good soldiers in the Lord's army, always on the lookout for Satan, our enemy, who steals in unawares to destroy people. We must tell them the message of God's Word to warn them. The unbelievers will scoff and will not believe that the Lord Jesus is coming back to take us to be with Himself. They will be caught unawares and unprepared when He appears. But if we are watchful and overcome (win), we shall be given more than a medal of honor by the Captain of our Salvation. He will give us a white robe, and our names will be written in the book of life.



CUT OUT AND INSERT IN CASKET PAGE 15

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