

## EP42 Revelation 3:1-6 P5

### *The Church at Sardis*

#### Overall Theme: Spiritual Delusion=Death

##### *Revelation 3:1-6*

To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who is now having the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you now have a name that you are now alive, but you are now dead. 'Now choose to be waking up (or watching), and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds ever having been made complete in the sight of My God. Now, remember what you have received and heard; and now keep it, and repent. Therefore, if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 'But you now have a few names in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are now worthy. 'He who is now overcoming will thus choose to be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 'He who is now having an ear, is commanded to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches.'

In our last podcast, we did a deep dive in to the **wrath** to come and learned about how we are even now being saved from the wrath to come. What we learned is that our “salvation” from **wrath** is not a done deal; rather, our being saved from the **wrath** to come is a process that involves Jesus *justifying* and *reconciling* us. It is a process by which we come to be **saved by His life**.

It is, in effect, how He brings about **Step 2** in our lives, where He gives us the opportunities to chose to become that little child who is dependent on Him all the time in all things. He targets the areas of our life that refuse to let Him be our **I AM**, and, if we are *willing*, He works to bring *reconciliation* and *justification* to each rebellious area of our life until He is the one who comes to fully possess us.

And just to remind you, the reason we are diving into this issue of **wrath** is because of the huge **WARNING** Jesus gives to those in Sardis when He tells them that they will not know the hour at which He comes to them.

Let's continue by looking at an example of those who will be saved from the **wrath** to come.

### Rescued from the Wrath to Come

#### *The Thessalonian Example*

The Thessalonians had a special relationship with **Yahweh**. The Spirit commends them for their work of faith and labor of *agape* love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. Clearly, this relationship stood in contrast to that of those in Sardis where **NONE** of their works were complete or done by Jesus in the presence of our God and Father. In a letter to the Thessalonians, the Spirit addressed this issue of being delivered or rescued from the **wrath** to come.

### 1 Thessalonians 1

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy. To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We **now** give thanks to God always for all of you, **now** choosing to be making mention of you in our prayers; **now** constantly bearing in mind **your work of faith and labor of *agape* love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father**, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you {*they are the “Called and Chosen”*}; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having chosen to be receiving the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you chose to have been an example to all that **are now believing** in Macedonia and in Achaia.

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we **now** have no need to **now** say anything. For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to **now** serve a living and true God, and to **now** wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, **who is now choosing to be delivering (or rescuing) us from the wrath that is now choosing to be coming**.

#### Jesus is Now Choosing from Those Who Are Now Believing

Jesus is *now choosing* to be “delivering” us from the wrath that is now choosing to be coming.<sup>1</sup> But with “delivering” being rendered as a *participle*, it is not a done deal, it is a process that He is working at it (in other words, He is *justifying* and *reconciling* those who are willing to let Him).

The reason it is a process is because it is still up to us to cooperate, to be **willing**, and to choose to **now be believing** that Jesus is our **I AM** and live dependent upon Him for all things all the time.

In **Chapter 2** of this same letter, the Spirit commends the Thessalonians commenting that despite the persecution they faced, they had been receiving the word of God in truth—that word which performs its work in those “*who are now believing*”.<sup>2</sup> He comments that they also had dug down deep in their soul and chose **NOT** to receive the word of God as if it was merely the word of men. The point is that the Thessalonians had an active faith and were now believing.

In like manner, when we are *now believing*, we will live according to the **work of faith and labor of *agape* love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father—and Jesus will be delivering us from the wrath to come**. By the way, this phrase is a string of *nouns*. There are no *verbs* in this phrase. It therefore describes what is (what the Spirit has produced) and **NOT** what we go out and do for God.

<sup>1</sup> “rescue” or “deliver” and “wrath to come” are both rendered in the *present active participle*

<sup>2</sup> **1 Thessalonians 2:13** Note: “believe” is rendered in the *present active participle*

## Not Destined for Wrath

In **Chapter 5** of this same letter to the Thessalonians, the Spirit straight up addresses this **Day of the Lord**, or this day of the **Lord's Wrath**. It is where we get the very familiar statement: *"God has not destined us for **wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

This is a powerful statement, but it has been misconstrued to be a standing promise by Jesus for everyone who has prayed the "sinner's prayer" or to everyone who is an active and vibrant Christian (those who have a reputation for being alive, just like those in Sardis). But this is not a promise at all, it is a *statement of purpose* giving room for personal choice. We will find that the **Code** makes this clear.

**Chapter 5** also provides for us a link directly to Sardis as it incorporates the idea of Jesus coming **like a thief** in the night or at an **hour that they do not know**, and of those who are **asleep** (like those in Sardis) bearing the fateful consequences of that choice. This also creates a direct tie to **Revelation 16:15** and that great **"Public Service Announcement"** (that dire **WARNING**) that comes right in the midst of the narrative describing the **Days of Wrath**.

And please keep in mind, the Spirit is still talking to those whose work of faith and labor of *agape* love and steadfastness of **HOPE** in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the presence of our God and Father, comes by way of their **CHOICE** to *now be believing*, and therefore His **CHOICE** to *now be delivering* them from **wrath**.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you **now** have no need that I **now** write to you. For you yourselves know full well that the **day of the Lord** **now** chooses to come **just like a thief in the night**. While they **now** say, "*Peace and safety!*" then **destruction** **now** chooses to come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman who is **now** bearing a child, and they may not escape.

But you, brethren, are **now** not in darkness, that the day might overtake you **like a thief**; for you are **now** all sons of light and sons of day. We are not **now** of night nor of darkness; so, then **let us not now sleep as others do** {*like those in Sardis*} but let us **now** be alert {literally to watch or to be vigilant} and **now** be sober.

For those who are **now** sleeping sleep at night, and those who are **now** being caused to be getting drunk **now** get drunk at night. But since we who are **now** being of the day, let us **now** be sober, having chosen to be putting on the breastplate of faith and *agape* love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

For God has not chosen to appoint us for **wrath**, but to possess {or acquire} salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who dying for us, so that whether we are **now** awake or **now** asleep, we should live together with Him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also **now** do.

The connections and links to the letter written to Sardis and to **Revelation 16:15** are clear. This is a strong **WARNING**.

The **Day of the Lord** chooses to come just like a thief in the night.<sup>3</sup> The implication is that those who are asleep (which is a picture and metaphor for those who are not now watching, not awake, not vigilant, or not active in their faith—those who are **NOT now believing**) will face *destruction*—or literally *destruction* will **now** choose to come (ironically, we will find out that they will be ultimately be destroyed by the Destroyer—the one whose name, in Hebrew, is “**destruction**”). They will face the Beast.

Being rendered in the *present middle indicative* (destruction chooses to now come), there is an aspect of this “destruction” that occurs in our **now**. John does tell us that the spirit of the Antichrist (this one whose name is destruction) is coming but now is presently at work in our world.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, this truth extends from our now well into to the future **End Times** events. Perhaps this also correlates to the idea that those who return to the law (those who renounce their mutual agreement to function by grace through faith and thereby curtail the work of reconciling and justifying) are abiding in wrath, and even now store up wrath for themselves in the day of wrath.

But for those who are awake, not getting drunk, are of the day, are sober, having chosen (as their way of life) to be putting on the breastplate of faith and *agape* love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation, Jesus chooses to be delivering them from wrath.

**SIMPLY SAID, RESCUE FROM THE “WRATH TO COME”  
COMES TO THOSE WHO ARE NOW BELIEVING.**

Thus, when there is no active belief, *destruction* chooses to now come into our temporal time and space such that if it overtakes us as we become like those who sleep, are not sober, are of the night, not cloaked in the protections given to us—as those whose houses are still dominated by the strongman. We become just like those who should have been keeping watch atop the great walls of Sardis. And our destiny will be *destruction* and **wrath**.

*A Statement of Purpose & Intent*

Let’s be clear, this statement that “*God has not chosen to appoint us for wrath*” is a statement reflecting His choice and desired purpose. We were once children of wrath,<sup>5</sup> but He has brought us into His household so we might choose to reject that destiny through believing.

This statement is rendered in the *aorist middle indicative*. It is a statement of fact, that God did not choose us for wrath. He has a different purpose in mind—obtaining as our very existence, salvation by His life. By the way, what is translated as “*obtaining salvation*” is not a verb, it is not something we go and do. It is a noun, and therefore speaks of our intended or purposed existence.

Therefore, since **wrath** is not a predetermined destiny, this implies that there is a way to escape it, or a way to let Jesus be effective in delivering us from **wrath**.

The key for this rescue is found in the way the Spirit addresses the Thessalonians present condition.

<sup>3</sup> “will come” is rendered in the *present middle indicative*

<sup>4</sup> **1 John 4:3**

<sup>5</sup> **Ephesians 2:3**

They are **now** not in darkness. They are **now** sons of light and sons of day. They are **now** not of night nor of darkness. As a result, they should now **not** sleep (they need to have an active faith). They are those who are **now** sober and awake, having chosen {as a way of life} to be putting on the breastplate of faith and *agape* love, and as a helmet, the **HOPE** of salvation.<sup>6</sup> They have both chosen to and are continually putting on this protection that will result in their being rescued from the **wrath** to come.

But that is **NOT** the same outcome we can expect of those who are asleep, who are not watching, who are not sober, who have NOT chosen to put on and to be putting on the breastplate of faith and *agape* love, and as a helmet, the **HOPE** of salvation. Those should expect that *destruction* (the Destroyer whose name is Destruction) will choose to now come for them, and in the end, they will face the **wrath** of God.

In other words, this statement that “*God has not chosen to appoint us for wrath*” is **NOT** a **PROMISE** or a guarantee that everyone who has said the “sinner’s prayer” can tuck away in their treasure box of God promises. That is a **fiction** and one of the most deceitful indulgences of *instinctual religious wisdom* that is found within the religion of Christianity.

### Purpose & Intent

The fact that God has not chosen or predestined us for wrath, but for obtaining as our very existence His salvation, is a beautiful and powerful statement of purpose and intent.

Being delivered from wrath is an ongoing process. God will do His work of choosing to be delivering us (through reconciling and justifying)—in effect **Step 2**, but it is still up to us to do the work of now believing—to now be willing to let Jesus do the work of delivering us, such that the **work of faith and labor of *agape* love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father** comes to define not just how we have lived in the past but how we continue to live every moment of our now.

**WE MUST NOT SLEEP, WE MUST BE VIGILANT,  
AND WE MUST WATCH BECAUSE WE ARE NOW BELIEVING.**

## White vs. Blackened Garments

### *Revelation 3:4*

But you have a few names in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are **now** worthy.

Drawing from the “Historical Setting,” clearly this is a play on two dynamics. First, Jesus makes it clear that there are only a few *names* of those who are **now** worthy. The standard translation, “but you have a few people” is inaccurate. The Greek says “names.”

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<sup>6</sup> “having put on” is rendered in the *aorist middle participle*

Beyond a clever turn on a phrase, it might indicate that those who were alive depending upon **Yahweh** for their righteousness did so as families, as small collectives sharing the same name. If so, that would be beautiful. But most likely it is a play on the “name” or reputation which the church held in the community, a name which God did not agree with. There were only a few who legitimately had reputation—a name—before God.

Second, this plays on the fact that they manufactured himation (the woolen robes that people wore), which was one of the chief exports of the Sardinians.

Utilizing that imagery, Jesus was clear that despite their reputation, a **few**, a ridiculously small number had not soiled or blackened their garments and therefore are **now** worthy. Being rendered in the *present* tense, it speaks of a moment in time, now! Right now, they are worthy! Hence, the admonition for them to keep watching and not be taken by surprise. Thus, this is a statement on their now and not on their tomorrow. Thus, this **WARNING** stands for all who now has ears to hear. Remember, **faith is a now thing!**

And take note that only a **few** names had not soiled their garments, much like the **few** who find the pathway to life.<sup>7</sup> After all, many are called, but **few** chosen.<sup>8</sup>

Here is the picture Jesus is painting. When a person is converted by God, they are given a white robe, which is the righteousness of Christ. Accordingly, they can call on the name **Yahweh Tsikdenu** to be their sole source of righteousness.<sup>9</sup> They do not personally have to become righteous or even try to do things right, because truth-be-told, they can’t be righteous without **Yahweh Tsidkenu**, despite what they might have otherwise been told they need to be.

And the only way to *walk with Jesus* when He arrives, is to be clothed in white, in His righteousness. In fact, much later we are given an image of the Bride of Christ and it was given to her to be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the holy ones.<sup>10</sup> In other words, the fine, bright, and clean linen represents works done in-and-through our lives by the only one who is truly righteous: **Yahweh Tsidkenu**.

This image of white robes is utilized often throughout **Revelation**. Those in Laodicea are exhorted to buy for themselves white garments.<sup>11</sup> The 24 Elders are wearing white garments.<sup>12</sup> The saints under the throne of God are given white robes.<sup>13</sup> A multitude of believers from every nation, tribe, and tongue are clothed in white robes, for they washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb.<sup>14</sup> The armies in heaven are also clothed in white fine linen.<sup>15</sup>

In contrast, “so-called believers” who do not rely on the Spirit of God as the source of their work or deeds, but rely on their own *instinctual religious wisdom*, their own religious licentiousness, sully their robes with black, and are no longer found in white, and are **now NOT** worthy.

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<sup>7</sup> **Matthew 7:14**

<sup>8</sup> **Matthew 22:14**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord (**Yahweh**) or righteousness

<sup>10</sup> **Revelation 19:7-8**

<sup>11</sup> **Revelation 3:18**

<sup>12</sup> **Revelation 4:4**

<sup>13</sup> **Revelation 6:11**

<sup>14</sup> **Revelation 7:9-14**

<sup>15</sup> **Revelation 19:14**

### STAY AWAKE! KEEP DILLIGENTLY WATCHING!

Finally, this notion of walking with Christ (rendered in the *future* tense), is a picture of ongoing companionship and it suggest that those who are overcoming will always be with Him (just as He promised) and will walk or journey with Him wherever He goes.<sup>16</sup>

## The Perfect Promise

### **Revelation 3:5-6**

He who is now overcoming will thus choose to be clothed in white garments; and I shall not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

This is a perfect promise, a trifacta.

### **White Robes**

First, the person who is **now** overcoming *will be clothed in white himation* (white robes).<sup>17</sup> They will be entirely draped with the righteousness of **Yahweh Tsidkenu**. This begs the question, “What is it that we must now and continually overcome?” Contextually, it is that drive, that desire, to do unauthorized works for God, to create, uphold, and maintain our reputation for being alive in Him, when we are in fact dead and dying.

This means that those who are now overcoming no longer “do ministry” (or anything for that matter) which God has not specifically appointed for them. They stick to those “*good works which, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*”<sup>18</sup>

It does not matter how we have been gifted, the opportunities that lie before us, the need that exists, who is asking us to help, nor anything else. All that matters is what the Father has appointed for us, and what the Son does in-and-through the lives of His bondservants—those who are convinced in their heart, mind, soul, and body that apart from Him they can do nothing!

**SINCE ONLY GOD IS GOOD, ONLY GOD CAN DO GOOD WORKS!  
WE MUST THEREFORE NOT BLACKEN OUR ROBES WITH OUR OWN “CHURCH  
WORTHY” MINISTRY DEEDS.**

<sup>16</sup> See **Matthew 28:20; John 14:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:17**

<sup>17</sup> “overcomes” is rendered in the *present active participle*

<sup>18</sup> **Ephesians 2:10**



### Book of Life

Second, Jesus promises the one who is now overcoming that *He may not erase their name from the book of life*.<sup>19</sup> Like the himation and the white robes, this also has both a cultural and a heavenly reference.

In Roman communities, the citizens of a town were recorded by name in the city registrar or the “Book of Life.” And when a person would die, their names would be removed from the registrar. Jesus utilizes this cultural phenomenon and says that those who are now overcoming will not die, they will live.<sup>20</sup> In contrast, those who are now dead and dying, may be removed from the registrar.

### To Be Erased

The actual “**Book of Life**,” and the other books which are mentioned in **Revelation 20:11-15**,<sup>21</sup> are used specifically for judging the dead, not the living. “*And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire*” (which is the “**Second Death**”).

The terrifying implication is that names which, at one time, were in the **Book of Life** are erased or removed. The **Codex** contains a very Messianic Psalm, prophetically describing various times in Jesus’ life, including His crucifixion. In this Psalm, David cried out “*Erase their names from the book of life, don’t let them be counted among the righteous.*”<sup>22</sup> Thus, those who were once in are now permanently out.

The good news is that these books apply to the dead and not to the living. The bondservants of God, though **few** they may be, get to be a part of the first resurrection (the “Rapture”), and the **Second Death** holds no power over them.<sup>23</sup> Their names are even now in the **Book of Life**, and shall not be erased.<sup>24</sup>

### The Power to Choose

There have been many people “called” into the household of God. Many have said the “sinner’s prayer” and asked God into their life and have been “born-again” or converted by God (they have taken **Step 1**). But being called into God’s household is just the first part of an enduring relationship. As we have learned, to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, once converted by God, a person must subsequently dig down deep in their soul and choose to become a little child (**Step 2**).<sup>25</sup>

**Step 2**, however, is not a one-time choice made during an emotional or even a logical prayer, it is a *lifestyle choice*, an ongoing decision to now live according to the **Design Point** and the **Substitution Principle**, where one is dependent upon **Yahweh** for all things, all the time.<sup>26</sup>

In this light, we can better understand the implication of **John 1:12**. “*But as many as have received Him, to them He gave the right, the power, the authority, to dig down deep in their soul and choose to become a child of God, even to those who now and continually believe in His name.*”<sup>27</sup> Understood

<sup>19</sup> “erase” is rendered in the *aorist active subjunctive* (a contingency subject to the issue of overcoming)

<sup>20</sup> See also **Psalm 118:17**

<sup>21</sup> See also **Exodus 32:32; Psalm 69:28; Daniel 12:1; Revelation 13:8, 17:8**

<sup>22</sup> **Psalm 69:28**

<sup>23</sup> **Revelation 20:4-6**

<sup>24</sup> **Philippians 4:3**

<sup>25</sup> **Matthew 18:3**

<sup>26</sup> Note: In **Matthew 18:3**, “become as little children” is rendered in the *aorist middle subjunctive*, a lifestyle choice that is dependent upon having been converted by God.

<sup>27</sup> **John 1:12**, “become” is rendered in the *aorist middle infinitive* and “believe” is rendered in the *present active*



according to the **Code**, the outcome is not guaranteed, just the ability and the power to choose the outcome.

Hence, the Spirit is clear, those who say the “prayer” are not automatically made into a bondservant of Jesus Christ (though they are brought into His household) and they do not automatically inherit the kingdom. Rather, those who come to believe in their spiritual poverty (their abject neediness for **Yahweh** in all things all the time) and therefore choose to be a child, theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.<sup>28</sup> For unless one becomes as a child, they will not enter the kingdom of Heaven. As Jesus said, many will try to enter the kingdom, but they will not be able.<sup>29</sup> Truth be told, He won’t let them.<sup>30</sup>

### The Choice to Be a Child

The choice to dig down deep in our soul and become a child is secured through our **willingness** to **now** be believing in (or betting our lives upon) His name: **Yahweh**, the **Hayah**, the one who is our **I AM** (our resource and provision for every aspect of our lives).

Accordingly, **Matthew** and **John** describe a saving relationship as one who is “called” and has “chosen” to be “faithful.”<sup>31</sup> Therefore those who get raptured and return with Jesus at His Second Coming, having been saved from the **wrath** to come, are referred to as “the Called and Chosen and Faithful.”<sup>32</sup> They encompass all these 3-attributes.

**Still, many are Called, but few Chosen.**<sup>33</sup>

Sadly, few names make this choice to be dressed in the righteousness of **Yahweh Tsidkenu** and therefore few choose to live like a little child dependent upon **Yahweh** for all things, especially for their righteousness and for all their good works. Remember, none of this church’s works were deemed to be completed before the Father—**NONE!** Only a few “names” make the choice to be clothed in white. But those who do, they are the **Chosen of God**, and their names shall not be erased from the **Book of Life**.

**THE CALLED, CHOSEN, AND FAITHFUL SHALL NOT HAVE THEIR NAMES ERASED FROM  
THE LAMB’S BOOK OF LIFE.**

### The Empty Registrar

But for those who are dead and dying and do not repent, and do not let the Spirit of God change their beliefs, their thoughts, and their lifestyle, they will be erased. They may think they are alive, and they may even have a super-great reputation for being alive, everyone else may think they are alive, but the registrar does not count those who are dead and dying.

One of the most terrifying comments Jesus repeatedly made is spoken of those who were “called” into

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*participle.*

<sup>28</sup> See **Matthew 5:3**

<sup>29</sup> See **Luke 13:24**

<sup>30</sup> **Luke 14:26-27**. Note, “cannot” is rendered in the *present passive indicative*

<sup>31</sup> **Matthew 18:3; John 1:12**

<sup>32</sup> **Revelation 17:14**

<sup>33</sup> **Matthew 22:14**

His household, but never made the choice to be a **Chosen** one. Not only will the names of these hypocrites (those who say they believe in His name, but do not live dependent upon His name) be erased from the **Book of Life**, they will be cast into the outer darkness, into the furnace of fire, a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.<sup>34</sup> Seven times Jesus made this declaration, a complete **WARNING** for all who are called into His household to choose to now be living by grace through faith (now believing) and not by their religious *flesh*, counting upon all their “**church worthy**” deeds to make them acceptable to God.

### The Visible Church

This should cause us to seriously question the “visible” church (which is the point of this instruction). Our churches are filled with many names, but the terrifying truth is that not all who claim the name of Jesus and do great deeds “**in His name**” even know Him. They think they do because they have said the “prayer,” have been an active part of the Christian ministry system and have gone through the motions of what is expected of them within Christianity.

But when it comes down to it, they choose what they want over what He wants, and they do not even know what He wants. They do their own works **in His name**, demonstrating that they do not truly know Jesus by His name; they do not know Him as **Yahweh**, their “**I AM.**” They are **NOT** watching nor expecting for their walls to be assailed. Yet, if they do not wake up and change direction, they will be removed from the **Book of Life**.

### Confess the Name

Third, Jesus promises that He will **confess** the name of the one who is now overcoming before His Father and before His angels. He made the same promise in **Matthew**, “*Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever may choose to deny {contradict, disavow, reject} Me before men, I will also choose to deny him before My Father who is in heaven.*”<sup>35</sup>

Let us be clear, denying Jesus is not always a direct verbal renunciation of His name. When we take a stand on our own good works, upon all that we have done for Jesus (even if that stand is an emotional or intellectual one), we deny His name before men and we contradict, disavow, and reject that agreement we made to function with one another no longer according to the law.<sup>36</sup>

As such, we deny that He is **Yahweh** and that only **Yahweh** is good. We deny that **Yahweh Tsidkenu** is our only righteousness. As such He will also choose to deny us before His Father in heaven uttering those bone chilling words: “***I never knew you. Now depart from me, you who are now choosing to be practicing lawlessness.***”<sup>37</sup> And that is too be understood as a statement of fact.<sup>38</sup>

The scary thing is that all who are Christian zombies might not even know that they are taking a stand on their own good works because they are so busy with all their “**church worthy**” deeds, which they assume are His good works; after all, they were done **in His name**.

<sup>34</sup> **Matthew 8:12, 13:42, 50, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30; Luke 13:28**

<sup>35</sup> **Matthew 10:32-33**

<sup>36</sup> **Titus 1:16**

<sup>37</sup> **Matthew 7:23**

<sup>38</sup> Note: “I will also choose to deny” is rendered in *future middle indicative*

One day, Jesus will stand before His Father and all the angels and declare that He knows the name of each one who is overcoming, just as they have chosen to know His name. It will be a time of celebration and great applause as He claims them for His own. And before all who are in the heavenly realms, He will deem them worthy to rule with Him and reign with Him for all eternity.<sup>39</sup>

## Ears to Hear

### ***Revelation 3:6***

'He who is **now** having an ear, is **commanded** to hear what the Spirit **now** says to the churches.'

Once again, there are many who know the truth, can recite the truth, teach the truth, and tell you where you need to cling to the truth, but they simply do not now have ears to hear the truth. They might have an emotional reaction to the truth, and for a time, even agree with the truth. Ironically, the truth of it all just does not penetrate their being. They do not strengthen what remains, nor do they repent (let God change what they believe) and mark out a new path for their feet to walk.

Rather, they continue in their delusion (and are even now convinced) that their good “**church worthy**” deeds are “**Jesus’ worthy**” deeds because of the amazing, and often quite tangible, blessing they have been in the lives of others. They do not accept the idea that they may be dead and dying—living as spiritual zombies. But as we have studied, **the source matters, the source is everything!**

Clearly those who are now overcoming are those who are now having the ears to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches.

### ***Matthew 7:13-14***

Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that is **now** leading to destruction, and there are **now** many who are choosing to be entering through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that is **now** leading to life, and there are **now** few who are **now** finding it.

This was a sobering teaching and one of the most shocking. What Jesus communicated to Sardis flies in the face of so much of what we have been taught in the Religion of Christianity. If this did not penetrate your soul and cause you to step back to discern if you are now believing, I encourage you to listen to it again. Download the transcript at [threshermediagroup.com](http://threshermediagroup.com) and study each-and-every reference. It is time to wake up and be vigilant in believing.

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<sup>39</sup> See ***Revelation 22:5***