

I. Introduction

The church in Sardis is a church that received only rebuke, while the church in Philadelphia is a church that received only praise.

What is the one theme that runs through today's entire passage?

Exegesis of verses 1-13

II. Main Body

1. The overarching theme of the passage is obeying and keeping God's Word—that is, "action" or "deeds."

The church in Sardis was rebuked because it had no deeds (vv. 1, 2, 3).

In contrast, the church in Philadelphia was praised because of its deeds (vv. 8, 10).

2. The command to keep and obey as seen in Deuteronomy

The reason the first generation of Israelites failed to enter the land of Canaan was disobedience.

Moses emphasized to the second generation, more than 250 times, the importance of keeping and obeying God's commands.

3. The relationship between deeds and salvation in James 2:14-26

We are not saved by deeds; rather, deeds are the evidence of faith that has been saved.

When faith is expressed through deeds, it is living faith; when there are no deeds, faith is dead.

If faith is truly saving faith, it must be demonstrated through deeds (James 2:14-26).

4. Deeds and salvation in Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus also tells us to prove saving faith through deeds (Matthew 7:21).

Consider the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25.

Why does Jesus speak as if salvation is obtained by deeds?

It is to emphasize that genuine saving faith must be revealed through deeds.

5. Why Jesus harshly rebuked the scribes and Pharisees

The scribes and Pharisees were experts in the Scriptures.

However, they knew the Word but did not practice it.

That is why Jesus told people not to imitate their actions (Matthew 23:3-5).

The reason Jesus rebuked the church in Sardis was because it had become a church like the Pharisees.

6. Three blessings given to the church in Philadelphia, which kept God's Word with little strength.

God will give an open door (v. 8).

An open door means prosperity and the granting of a mission.

God will vindicate them and confirm that they are right (v. 9).

God will keep them from the hour of trial (v. 10).

When we keep God's Word, God will keep us.

7. Examples in our church where faith has been expressed through deeds

III. Conclusion

Let us reveal God's glory by putting His Word into action.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” (James 2:26)

**Bible
Reading**

2/9(Mon)	2/10(Tue)	2/11(Wed)	2/12(Thur)	2/13(Fri)	2/14(Sat)	2/15(Sun)
Exodus 36-38	Exodus 39-40, Leviticus 1	Leviticus 2-5	Leviticus 6-8	Leviticus 9-11	Leviticus 12-14	Leviticus 15-17

QT

Quiet Time Passage

2/9(Mon)	2/10(Tue)	2/11(Wed)	2/12(Thur)	2/13(Fri)	2/14(Sat)	2/15(Sun)
Matthew 12:1-21	Matthew 12:22-37	Matthew 12:38-50	Matthew 13:1-17	Matthew 13:18-30	Matthew 13:31-43	Matthew 13:44-58

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Among today's sermon message, share one thing that stood out to you the most, something newly realized, or something that especially gave you grace.
2. In the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25, Jesus speaks as if salvation comes through deeds. James also speaks in James 2 as if salvation comes through deeds. Why do Jesus and James speak this way? Explain through the relationship between faith and deeds.
3. Share your thoughts on why hearing and obeying God's Word is so important.
4. The church in Philadelphia received three blessings because it kept God's Word with little strength. What are those three blessings, and how can they be applied to our church or to your own life?