

SO ARE WE READY?

THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS FOUND IN UNDERSTANDING THE BLESSING OF REVELATION 1:3.

- (Revelation 1:3 ESV) Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

The blessing of God offered in this verse is the blessing of readiness for the time that is near—the soon coming of Jesus Christ with the clouds. We must also note that it is obedience in all three aspects—read aloud, hear and keep—that brings the blessing.

So ... here is how this happens ...

1. We are **BLESSED/READY** if we read aloud the words.

- To read aloud means to sound out, proclaim, share, broadcast.
- If we believe and obey the words of this prophecy, then we will have no shame, no hesitancy, in broadcasting the message.

2. We are **BLESSED/READY** if we hear the words.

- (Revelation 2:7a ESV) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- Christ exhorts each church to “hear what the Spirit says to the churches” beginning in Revelation 2:7 to the church at Ephesus. He then repeats this to each church: to Smyrna in 2:11, to Pergamum in 2:17, to Thyatira 2:29, to Sardis in 3:6, to Philadelphia in 3:13 and to Laodicea in 3:22.

- (Revelation 2:7a ESV) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

3. We are **BLESSED/READY** if we keep the words.

- **Hold fast ...** (Revelation 2:13 ESV) I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you **hold fast** my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- **Hold fast ...** (Revelation 2:25 ESV) Only **hold fast** what you have until I come.
- **Keeps ...** (Revelation 2:26 ESV) The one who conquers and who **keeps** my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations.
- **Keep ...** (Revelation 3:3 ESV) Remember, then, what you received and heard. **Keep** it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.
- **Kept ...** (Revelation 3:8 ESV) I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have **kept** my word and have not denied my name.
- **Hold fast ...** (Revelation 3:11 ESV) I am coming soon. **Hold fast** what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.
- **Keep ...** (Revelation 12:17 ESV) Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who **keep** the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.
- **Hold to ...** (Revelation 19:10 ESV) Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who **hold to** the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
- **Keeps ...** (Revelation 22:7 ESV) And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who **keeps** the words of the prophecy of this book.
- **Keep ...** (Revelation 22:9 ESV) But he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who **keep** the words of this book. Worship God.”

- (Revelation 3:8b ESV) I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

So using the three criteria above—read aloud, hear and keep, let’s apply the corrective measures to the seven churches using the data on the tables on study sheets 3 and 4.