

St. Therese Adult Study Series
The Book of Revelation with Father Andrie

Reflection Questions for Chapters 2-3

For the next session on October 29th, please read Chapters 2 & 3, pages 56-97 in *The Revelation* book. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: *"Lord Jesus, during this time of harvest, how shall I labor for You? Amidst autumn's panorama, how can I glorify You? As dusk comes earlier, how will I seek Your light? As fall turns to winter, how might I change, too? Amen."* <https://www.heartofthenation.org/daily-prayers> Your reflections will be shared **October 29th** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

1. In Chapter 2, John is instructed to write to four churches in Asia: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, and Thyatira. Although written to these 1st century churches, the author invites us to consider the oracle personally. "Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches" (p. 56) The author tells us to "listen not only to the message addressed to their church but also to the messages that the Spirit addresses to all the churches." *What do you hear the Spirit saying to the Church today?*

2. *What was it like when you first experienced God's love and began to love him and others? What changed in your life when this happened? How could you share this with others who may be struggling?* (p 63)

3. (p 66-67) Jesus tells the church of Smyrna, "Do not be afraid of anything that you are going to suffer." *How do you overcome the emotion of fear and find the strength to overcome? In whom do we need to place our trust at those times?*

4. On page 75 the author asks if idolatry is obsolete. *What things does he list that are modern day idols? Do you agree with them? What would you add to his list?*

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5. (p 80) "Although we are saved by God's grace, we must respond to grace with appropriate conduct and will be judged by what we do." *How would you explain this to a non-believer or someone who is struggling with their faith? How would a strong devotion to the Eucharist be helpful?*

6. List the promises given in this chapter to those who overcome (7,11,17,26-28)

7. (p 85) *Who will wear white garments in Sardis? What do they symbolize?* It says the victor will be dressed in white. *What does this imply for us?*

8. (91) *What does it mean to be a pillar in the temple? Why are the faithful marked with the name of God?*

9. (96-97) *What are the six steps of repentance the author gives us?*

10. What exhortation is given at the end of each letter in this chapter? (6,13,22)

What else stood out for you in this chapter?

For your personal prayer:

Remember that first love of Jesus that you had. Pray to return there or stay strong if you are still there. If you've strayed or have fallen short, God is eager to forgive and very important, *leads the way home*. You don't have to do it on your own. Pray—Jesus, Lead the Way.