Revelation 3:1-13 – A Spiritual Health Check-Up

The letters to the seven churches each offer a personal custom-made message, yet they all have a common outline that serves an overarching purpose: to provide spiritual direction for people called by Christ to live in the world yet distinct from it (Jn. 17). Since all seven letters are sent in one document to all the churches, they are instructive for all of us at all times and in all places. They are God's gift to help us listen to what the Spirit is telling us today about our own strengths and weaknesses.

Warm Up Question(s) – choose one

- What word or words of affirmation have you received that you still remember and value?
- What word or words of correction have you received that you still remember and value?

Discovering the Word - Divide your group into two (or four) groups and have each group conduct an evaluation of one church assigned to them (i.e. a spiritual health check-up). Make sure they know they need to give a brief summary report to the other group(s) after they have completed their evaluation/check-up. Each group's report should include leading indicators of the church's/patient's overall health (or ill-health) and your recommendations (or treatment plan) for this church/patient.

Read Revelation 3:1-6; or **3:7-13** and assess the church using the following fact finding questions:

1) How does the ultimate evaluator of this church distinguish or present himself? What do these particular features highlight and convey?

2) What image or perspective do you think your church has of itself? How realistic is it? Why do you think that is?

3) What admonition and what warning does Christ give this church (Sardis, Philadelphia)?

4) What practical step(s) are needed for maintaining or restoring spiritual health & vitality? What other scriptures & stories could help provide further practical examples?

5) What encouragements or motivational promises are there for this church? Which do you find most impactful?

6) Are there any personal insights or experiences you could add to your review of, or encouragement for, this church (e.g. a similar challenge or problem you've faced, or overcome & how you overcame it)?

Share the summary of your findings & recommendations with the other groups.

1) **Church Name & Commendation(s)**

2) **Item(s) of Concern/Critique**

3) **Recommendation(s)** (& any personal insight or story)