

General Theme: **He Who Has an Ear, Let Him Hear!**

Mess. 11: **The Waldensians - The Golden Line of God's Grace**

Scripture Reading: Rv 3:4-6

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<https://youtu.be/Jad7R1ydDbw>

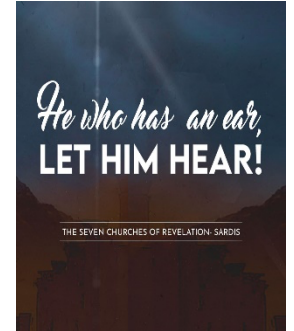


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Word given by brother **Pedro Dong**, transmitted by Instituto Vida Para Todos, directly from the church auditorium in São Paulo - SP, Brazil, on **07/30/2023**. Text not revised by the author.



1. We just left a Teenage Conference (Holy Generation) and a Youth Conference (Final Generation). God has blessed us a lot and has engaged a very large army. For us it is a pure surprise and a miracle that the Lord in this final moment in which all would be far from God, especially the teenage age group who should be apathetic, has worked a miracle among us, His church. Since 2020, the word in Psalms 110:3 has been open to us, where it says that the people of God will be volunteers and like drops of dew will descend in the bosom of the dawn for the formation of an army of holy youth. In the second chapter of Psalms, God promised to give the Son the nations as an inheritance if He asked. The Son certainly asked. And the Lord's answer comes in Psalm 110, making our teenagers, youth, and even children fall from the sky like drops of dew, at the end of time. It's fantastic! **We are stunned, because of the simplicity of these teens and children, God is blessing this generation, they are gathering more and more friends and colleagues, making a true miracle happen. God needs a committed army to bring Him back at the end of times.**

2. Today through the various Teenager's House, we will have a norm of teens: disciplined and committed to immersion, filled with the spirit, and preaching the gospel! **They've come out of the four walls and are out on the streets applying the "May I Pray for You?" They understood that our mission is to preach the gospel of the kingdom, so the end will come.**

3. We also had the Youth Conference, and our youth were given the task of taking care of these teens, who appeared as the Lord's troops. **The teens need command, they need captains, these will be our youth.** We saw this in 1 Chronicles 11, 12 and 13. Our youth are making up for lost time and chasing losses, they are following the simplicity of our teens, practicing immersion in the Word with application and preaching the gospel in the streets. **We not only have troops, but also captains. The Lord is raising up a great army throughout the earth. May we welcome these youth and teens who go through the churches setting them on fire.** In the end times, the seven torches of fire that burn before the throne of God will travel across the earth as the Seven Spirits of God and will set fire to all the churches, to set the whole earth on fire with the fire of the gospel!

4. The coordinators of the GPCs, who accompanied us in the last few days, also had experience with immersion, they were very much helped. They saw that even the immersion that everyone is doing, they didn't know how to do it right to extract all the richness of the Word. **Let's penetrate and deepen in each sentence, each word, each letter to be engraved in our hearts.** God wants His Word to be inculcated in our hearts, engraved, through repetitions, by speaking to one another, teaching one another, and admonishing one another. This way Christ will dwell in our hearts. **We do not live the Christian life merely by teaching, but because we have the living Word of Christ living in our hearts.** He is heading up our lives.

5. At the end of times, God wants a church that is not a façade, but that has the spiritual reality of everything it does, not just from the mouth, but from the heart. **God needs all this word that He is speaking to His church to be inculcated in our hearts and our spiritual reality.** Having the reality of a good Christian, manifested through our behavior and conduct here on earth. That's what we're going to talk about.

Rev 3:4-5

6. We have already given background on the church in Sardis. In church history, it is the moment when the Protestant Reformation begins with Martin Luther and Zwingli. We saw that the church in Sardis came out of that dark age, from the danger of the church in Thyatira, where the teaching of Jezebel prevailed, which brought all kinds of abominations and spiritual prostitution. That plunged the church into the dark ages. Men did not have the light of the Word to live by. **However, the reformation brought a wonderful truth: justification by faith.** Completely different from the age of Thyatira, which preached justification by works. In which to deserve something from God, one should live strictly, going through several stages of fasting, even depriving oneself of legitimate things like sleep and food, this with the intention of attaining the grace of God.

7. But, by the revealed truth, justification by faith, man realized that attaining forgiveness of sins and justification before God, does not occur, doing all these things, by way of asceticism. **God has given us the way of salvation by grace!** God's people freed themselves from the wrong teaching of Jezebel and entered the new phase of the church in Sardis, which, for not continuing to seek light in the Word, especially regarding church government, also declined. The mystery of God's will revealed to us in Eph 1:9-10 is to head up all things in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth. God's will is this: that Christ should be head not only of the church, but over all things. This is because, today the world lies in the evil one, ruled by the spirit that works in the children of disobedience and their principalities and powers and authorities of darkness. But God wants to bring about Christ's government on earth. **This is our mission as a church: to bring God's headship to earth, first in ourselves, our lives, families and church, and so through preaching the gospel of the Kingdom extend His rule over all things.**

8. **Not only should the church have sought the light of justification by faith, a basic and essential truth, but it should also have seen that the church must be governed by Christ. The authority of the Holy Spirit is essential, otherwise God will not be able to do His will.** The church in Sardis paid no attention to this. A vessel was missing, which is the church, to receive the light of the Word that would come little by little. In Sardis the people of God had an open Bible, but the biblical truths that were revealed and received were not received for the church as a whole, to favor the edification of the Body of Christ, because they didn't have the vision of the church. Each received a blessing from God's revelation and fought for it and ended up becoming a group that defended that truth. Thus, different groups emerged during the period of the church in Sardis, there was no vision of the Body of Christ.

9. The system of government into which the Protestant church in Germany was born was wrong. The power of the state ended up governing the church, they determined the form of meetings and decided who should become a minister or not. In England, the episcopate that defined the direction of the church, is just a human government. Others did not believe that the church should be state-owned, which is where private churches were born. God needed to restore the church as a whole, the church in Philadelphia. Amid this situation, God said in Revelation 3:4 that there were still those who did not defile their garments.

10. **What does it mean to defile the garments? The garments in the Bible are our walk, conduct, the way we live daily, and behavior before men. On the one hand, white robes refer to pure and righteous conduct, on the other hand, it is conduct approved by God.** It does no good for our conduct to be judged by ourselves. God needs to judge and approve our conduct and living. If not, on that day, in Matthew 7, we will be those who do things in the name of the Lord, but He doesn't know us, He never approved of us. We need the Lord's approval. We cannot deceive ourselves. This is the meaning of pure garments.

1 Tim 1:5

11. Our faith in the Christian life cannot be faked, just for men to see. Our faith must be sincere. Paul's warnings to the church at Ephesus were out of love for them. True love makes us speak the truth, not what the other wants to hear. The warnings came from the love that comes from a pure heart. **We need to be those who do not live a Christian life with ulterior motives, but have a pure heart to serve the Lord, and a good and sensitive conscience.** When we don't listen to the Word of God, another resource, which is the conscience, accuses us when we do something wrong. But if we refuse to heed the warning of the conscience, eventually it will sear itself. It will become insensitive. Let's keep our conscience very sensitive! When we are accused by it, let us return to the Lord immediately! This way we will always keep it sensitive. Pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith.

12. We don't have to pretend to be good Christians for anyone. If what I am leads to the disapproval of the brothers, I will try to grow and mature in the Lord. Let's live with these characteristics: pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith. We don't need to be hypocrites, fake Christians. Immersing in the Word brings us reality. The Word itself, which is Christ, in us, fills us with reality.

2 Tim 1:5; 1 Tim 3:15

13. This matter of sincere faith has examples. Timothy's grandmother and mother had this spiritual reality. Timothy learned to live a genuine faith. **Our conduct should manifest our real situation. May the Lord give us this grace! This must be the reality that people see in our daily walk.**

14. In the end time God requires His church to be the pillar and foundation of the truth. What is truth? In this universe there is only one truth, only God is the Truth. If we take away God, the universe is empty. Only God is real. **The church must uphold this one truth and reality of the universe. If we are responsible for sustaining this one truth, we cannot have a dirty garment, a conduct that does not match the truth and reality that the church sustains.** Therefore, the church must have spiritual reality! We are not here playing church or being Christians. We need to seek reality through the Word.

15. Our teenagers are already on the right track! Every day they are immersing themselves in the Word by transcribing and the word is dwelling in them richly and is constituting in them as their reality. All of this is real change that comes from the inside out.

16. What does it mean to defile the garment? Specifically tainting them with death. Death is more polluting before God than sin.

Lv 11:24-25, 28, 40; 1 Jn 1:9; Nu 6:6-7, 19:11, 13

17. Leviticus is talking about clean and unclean animals. It just talked about unclean animals. This is what verse 24 is referring to. If you touch the carcass of an unclean animal, you will be unclean until the end of the day (evening for the Jews). It is more serious than the question of sin. How to deal with sin? **If I am sporadically overcome by sin, I need to repent and confess before God. If you confess them with a repentant heart, God is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse from all unrighteousness. Point blank. If we touch death, we will be filthy for a while.** This refers to the corpse of animals.

18. Numbers 6 speaks of the Naziriteship. What is that? From among the people of Israel God chose a tribe of priests who serve Him. The tribe of Levi is consecrated to serve the Lord. If from another tribe there is a very big heart to consecrate and serve the Lord, whether for a period or for life, it is necessary to make a vow of Naziriteship, "I want to be a Nazirite to serve the Lord all my life!". **Teens who consecrate themselves every weekend to immerse themselves in the Word and preach the gospel are Nazirites!**

19. While the Nazirite vow lasts, we cannot touch death. **We are holy and separated unto the Lord.** One cannot contaminate themselves with death from the father, or of the mother, or of anyone in the family. Death is negative talk. A rebellious speech and against the authority of God. If your

father comes with negative words of contamination, we must avoid it and move away. If it is a brother who has already helped us in the past and speaks words of death to us, we must reject it. Don't touch death.

Nu 12:1-2, 6, 8-11

20. If by chance, we touch death we need to purify ourselves. What does it mean to touch death? Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses, the one the Lord raised up to lead the people. Miriam and Aaron's hearts were not about something they thought was wrong and condemned what Moses had done, but they had a dissatisfaction about why only Moses spoke for God. This kind of attitude is still seen today. It means words of death. Words of death when we speak against the authority that God has established, negatively criticizing, for not accepting someone that God has established as authority. Let's be careful! This attitude is so serious that the Lord hears. God listens because it's related to headship, a line of authority. **If we go against that line of authority, we are going against the authority of Christ and God Himself.** It's rebellion, it's leprosy. Miriam immediately realized that she had leprosy.

21. He who has really been set up by God as an authority, claims nothing for himself, is not presumptuous, is meek. This complaint was not merely to point out a fault with Moses, but to speak against Moses, the servant of the Lord. Now that's touching death. The presence of the Lord (the cloud) withdraws, and leprosy is revealed. The symptoms of death make us critical and analytical. We can no longer enjoy. We lost joy and simplicity. It's horrible.

2 Co 1:12, 11:3; 2 Co 10:3-4

22. The word holiness in some manuscripts is "simplicity." We must not live in human wisdom. That way we can be affected. We need to learn to live simply and sincerely before God. **If you identify that this word is a prophetic word and comes from God, be simple! Because with Christ we have only simplicity and purity.** If it comes from Christ, this must be our conduct. Death comes by sophistry, logic and human reason, it takes us to the mind and we build fortresses, it brings us depression. God's weapon is powerful, it is the very Word of God, capable of destroying strongholds and nullifying all human logic, reason and pride, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. That's heading up. When the church reaches a point of total obedience and submission, Christ will return, for He will already have the basis for judging all the disobedience in the world and will head up all things.

Rev 3:4-5; Mt 22:1-14

23. These will be the overcomers who will participate in the wedding. The Lord, since He generated the church on the Day of Pentecost, has been calling and inviting people to participate in the marriage of the lamb. This supper will be in the millennium. **In all ages, He invites overcomers.** In the early days they didn't want to, they rejected it. Now, at the end of time, the Lord told us to go to the crossroads, to the streets, and He found us! **The worthiest did not accept the invitation and we who are the least worthy were found!** The Lord is no respecter of people therefore do not choose. We don't know who will overcome. We all have that same hope. **The overcomer will participate in the wedding of the Son of the King, in the millennium. For this, we need to have a special costume: the white robes! Those without garments will be thrown out of the wedding feast.**

24. Teens are being chosen out by simplicity. Captains also need to become simple to participate, and the rest of the brothers and sisters. This way we will all enter the good land, through the door opened for Caleb and Joshua. Otherwise, we will remain in the desert.

Rv 19:7-9, 19:14-16, 3:6

25. Garments are our deeds, our conduct. If we want to participate, we need to have this outfit. Through the righteous acts of the overcomers, God bound together the members of the Body of Christ in love, uniting them perfectly, making a fabric of the finest linen, following the truth in love, the members grow in everything in Him who is the Head, Christ, of whom the whole Body, well joined and compacted (coalesced), by the help of every joint and the right cooperation of every part, causes the growth for the building up of the Body.

26. These same overcomers, who will participate in the marriage of the lamb, will be God's army to participate in the last battle against the Antichrist and his armies at Armageddon. Let's cast all disobedience into the lake of fire! See how important it is to have the white robe. So listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. **Let us not have a hardened heart. Let's have a heart worked by the Lord, that inculcates the Word of God and listens to the Word of the Spirit.**

27. And what does all this have to do with the golden line of God's grace? For twenty centuries it was a very faint line, but Satan cannot erase when the work comes from the headship of Christ. In the 12th century, Pedro Waldo appeared, and he had the light of the Lord **that which man needed, in the darkness of the dark age, was the Word of God.** The man did not have access to the Bible, which was in Latin. He paid someone to translate the four gospels into the common language. He was originally from Lyon, France. This was hated by the pope. Other copyists made copies of the translations, and they took those copies and put them inside bags that went under the clothes hung by the neck. These were the first colporteurs. **They knew that the only thing that helps people is the Word of God! They would then read the Word to the people.**

28. Both the Waldensians on one side of the Alps, and the Albigenses on the other side of the Alps, were greatly persecuted and decimated by the papal crusades which massacred them. That in the twelfth century, in the fourteenth century after much massacre what happens is the following, "At the end of the fourteenth century, in order to spread the pure truth of the Gospel, and find a new and more peaceful place to settle down, many Waldensians left They settled in Switzerland, Moravia, Bohemia (now the Czech Republic), in various parts of Germany, and probably reached England. Their largest colony was formed in Calabria around 1370. Despite the discontent of the priests of Rome, they were little disturbed for two centuries."

29. Then came the dark year of 1560, "On learning that the Waldensians had taken root in various parts of Italy, in addition to the valleys of Piedmont [Northern Italy, western limit with France, capital Turin], the pope Pius IV called for a new crusade aimed at the total extermination of the "heretics".

30. Reading an excerpt from Andrew Miller's *The History of the Church*, "With this, the ruthless sword of the fury of religious persecution was unsheathed, and it acted brutally. It took over a hundred years for it to be sheathed. A bloody chase and unspeakable carnage ensued. Two companies of soldiers, commanded by the pope's agents, invaded the peaceful lands of Calabria, killing, burning, and destroying the peasants, until the service of complete extermination was nearing its end.

31. Another text from him, "The Waldensians, knowing very well all the hiding places and mountain paths (for they dwelt in valleys and mountains), and fighting with the courage of despair, succeeded in inflicting many casualties on the enemy troops (...) There was nothing that could subvert the faith of the Waldensians, nor subdue or overcome the courage they had. In defending their natural rights as men, in upholding the truth, and in resisting all edicts of extermination - which caused the desolation of their homes and stained their altars with blood - the Waldensians displayed a determination and perseverance that are unparalleled in history."

32. With the expulsion of the Waldensians from their valleys, after the massacre of 1655, there was peace which lasted about 30 years. However, heavy burdens were placed on them by overseers in the service of the Roman Church, the valleys they inhabited became prisons, any supplies sent from England or other countries were confiscated. They suffered misery and pain without food (they were starving). They fought until 1686, when a new war broke out, the peasants were defeated, and the survivors were arrested. 14,000 of them were cast into Piedmont dungeons, through the intercession of Swiss representatives, only 3,000 pale and skeletal figures survived, in October of that year. They were prisons that were fetid and unsanitary.

33. They were immediately driven out of their valleys that same night, without mercy, towards the Alps, in winter, towards Mount Cenis, which is in the province of Savoy in France, near the border with Italy. During that night, more than 150 of them died as they faced storm and hurricane. In mid-December they arrived in Geneva extremely exhausted and bruised by the intense cold.

34. Geneva could not house them all, several reformed Cantons received the exiles. However, the Waldensians were intent on returning to their homeland. The Duke of Savoy, alarmed by this, closed the border. As the Waldensians deliberated what to do, their leader Henri Arnaud used the words of Luke 12:32, "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." They didn't care about the opposition; they decided to leave and return to their valleys.

35. They set out from the shores of Lake Geneva on the night of August 16, 1689, between 800 and 900 people, towards their native valleys. With many difficulties, dangers, and deprivations, they marched for 31 days and reached their destination.

36. By the sovereignty of God, in a dispute with the king of France, Victor Amadeus, Duke of Savoy, became favorable to the Waldensians (welcomed them). Furthermore, in a treaty between England and Piedmonts' rulers, Great Britain pledged to protect individuals and their churches for peace.

37. During Napoleon's empire, the Waldensians enjoyed rights and privileges common to all inhabitants, but when the house of Savoy was restored over the kingdom of Sardinia, the prince's advisers persuaded him to impose the yoke again on the Waldensians. Their fight now was against poverty and hunger. Protestants in England took up collections to help them. In this way **the Lord cared for His suffering people, preserving the golden line of His grace, maintaining the brightness of His truth.**

38. The Waldensians of today: The Waldensians had a rich history, with wonderful tradition, and today they have lost their enthusiasm, living on past glory. For with religious freedom, there was no longer a need to pay a price. So the pressure is good. For, in 1532 the Waldensians officially joined the Protestant Reformation, they absorbed the religious culture, fell into an institution, and ended up secularizing, without spiritual vigor.

39. There are two factors for God to use His church. First, we **must maintain a constant hold on the Word. That is why it is the prophetic word that keeps us alive, having direction and content.** Reverent love, attachment to the Word is the number one essence of our fight. We must seek new light and not be content with the light we once had. The enemy is speaking against the prophetic word, saying we must go back to the Bible alone. We can spend another 10 centuries with the Bible and die without revelation, without light. Thank God we have the revelation, light, the prophetic word! Today we colport of the revealed word! It is the revelation that makes the work of God happen. Second, **maintain evangelistic vigor by preaching the gospel of the kingdom to all the inhabited earth. We love the Lord's coming; we strive to hasten His return. Therefore, the church cooperates in preaching the gospel of the kingdom.** We can't stay between four walls; we need to go out to the streets!

40. One of the factors in the success of the Waldensians was teaching the children the Word of God (they had schools and encouraged the children to memorize the Word of God, in case they confiscated their bibles, so they grew up inculcating the Word), preparing them to be missionaries. Thank God the Spirit compelled us to do this. **We are the sequel to the Waldensians of today. We need the prophetic word; without it we cannot move forward. We also need the evangelistic power! Then the end will come.**