

Revelation 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Analysis

The repeated refrain 'He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches' emphasizes personal responsibility to respond to divine revelation. Spiritual hearing requires regenerate hearts—the Holy Spirit must grant ears to hear (Ezekiel 12:2). This is corporate address ('churches,' plural) reminding each congregation that messages to one apply to all. Reformed theology affirms the Spirit's internal testimony makes Scripture effectual; mere exposure to truth without spiritual illumination leaves hearers deaf to its claims.

Historical Context

This formula concludes each letter to the seven churches, underscoring that these were circular messages for all congregations, not private correspondence. In an oral culture, public reading in worship gatherings was primary Scripture distribution. The call to hear engaged listeners personally while recognizing corporate application.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How can you cultivate spiritual attentiveness to 'hear' what the Spirit says through Scripture beyond mere intellectual understanding?
2. What does the corporate nature ('churches') of this address teach about the church's role in understanding and applying God's Word?

Interlinear Text

ο	ἔχων	οὐς	ἀκουσάτω	τί	τὸ	πνεῦμα	λέγει
G3588	He that hath	an ear	let him hear	what	G3588	the Spirit	saith
	G2192	G3775	G191	G5101		G4151	G3004

ταῖς	ἐκκλησίαις
G3588	unto the churches
	G1577

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 2:7 (Spirit): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.