

# Revelation 3:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

## Analysis

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**Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God....** This verse from Revelation's vision of letters to sardis, philadelphia, laodicea - dead religion, faithful witness, lukewarmness employs apocalyptic imagery rich with Old Testament allusions and symbolic meaning. The Greek text uses vivid apocalyptic language characteristic of Jewish prophetic literature, drawing heavily from Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Zechariah.

The symbolism must be interpreted within its first-century context while recognizing timeless spiritual realities. The imagery would resonate powerfully with persecuted believers facing Roman imperial cult worship, providing hope that despite present suffering, Christ reigns sovereign and will consummate His kingdom. The apocalyptic genre uses symbolic numbers (seven, twelve, 144,000), colors, beasts, and cosmic imagery to convey theological truth rather than photographic descriptions.

Christologically, Revelation consistently exalts Jesus as the victorious Lamb, the faithful witness, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Every vision ultimately points to Christ's supremacy, His finished redemptive work, and His certain return to judge the living and dead and establish the new creation.

## Historical Context

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John received this revelation circa AD 95 during Domitian's persecution, exiled on Patmos for his testimony. The seven churches of Asia Minor faced increasing pressure to participate in emperor worship and pagan religious practices. Refusal meant economic hardship, social ostracism, and potential martyrdom. Understanding this context illuminates Revelation's encouragement to faithful endurance.

The apocalyptic genre was familiar to first-century Jewish and Christian readers. Rather than newspaper-style predictions, apocalyptic literature uses symbolic imagery to reveal spiritual realities behind earthly events, encourage the faithful, warn the unfaithful, and assert God's ultimate sovereignty over history. Parallels with Daniel, Ezekiel, and intertestamental apocalyptic writings would help original readers decode the symbols.

Rome's imperial cult demanded worship of Caesar as divine, placing Christians in impossible situations—compromise their faith or face persecution. Revelation identifies Rome as "Babylon" and assures believers that despite appearances, the Lamb conquered through His death and resurrection, and all earthly kingdoms will submit to His reign.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Revelation 3:2 reveal God's character, particularly His sovereignty, holiness, and justice?
2. What specific encouragement or warning does this verse offer for maintaining faithful Christian witness amid cultural pressure?

3. How does this passage point to Christ's victory and the hope of new creation, and how should that shape your present priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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γίνου	γρηγορῶν	καὶ	στήριξον	τὰ	λοιπὰ	ἃ
<b>Be</b>	<b>watchful</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>strengthen</b>	G3588	<b>the things which remain</b>	<b>that</b>
G1096	G1127	G2532	G4741		G3062	G3739
μὲλλει	ἀποθανεῖν	οὐ	γὰρ	εὔρηκά	σου	τὰ ἔργα
<b>are</b>	<b>ready to die</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>for</b>	<b>I have</b>	<b>thy</b>	<b>works</b>
G3195	G599	G3756	G1063	G2147	G4675	G2041
πεπληρωμένα	ἐνώπιον	τοῦ	θεοῦ			
<b>perfect</b>	<b>before</b>	G3588	<b>God</b>			
G4137	G1799		G2316			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 16:15** (Parallel theme): Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

**1 Peter 5:8** (Parallel theme): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

**1 Peter 4:7** (Parallel theme): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

**Isaiah 35:3** (Parallel theme): Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

**2 Chronicles 25:2** (Parallel theme): And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.

**Acts 18:23** (Parallel theme): And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

**Matthew 25:13** (Parallel theme): Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

**Deuteronomy 3:28** (Parallel theme): But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see.

**Revelation 2:4** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

**Ezekiel 34:16** (Parallel theme): I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

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