

THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST

"Sardis: The Dead Church"

Revelation 3:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are currently living in the church age.
 - a) Revelation 1-3
 - b) Revelation 4-19 (Tribulation)
 - c) Revelation 20 (Millenium)
 - d) Revelation 21-22 (Eternity)
2. **Revelation 1:19** Outline of the BOOK.
3. **Revelation 1:9-11** - The seven churches of ASIA
 - a) To this point we have covered 4 of the 7 churches.
 - 1) The Church of Ephesus - **Revelation 2:1-7**
"The Church that left its First Love"
 - 2) The Church of Smyrna - **Revelation 2:8-11**
"The Suffering Church"
 - 3) The Church of Pergamum - Revelation 2:12-17
"The Church in Satan's City"
 - 4) The Church of Thyatira - **Revelation 2:18-28**
"The Adulterous Church"
4. **Revelation 3:1-6**
5. The City of Sardis was considered to be one of the most impregnable cities of its day.
6. The greatest king of Sardis was named Croesus a king remembered for his great wealth.
7. Croesus, against advise went to war against Cyrus - King of Persia.

I. THE RECIPIENT OF THE LETTER

1. The letter to Sardis is the 5th letter from Christ to the Churches.
 - a) The Church of Ephesus - Was the church that left its first love.
 - b) The Church of Smyrna - Was the persecuted church.
 - c) The Church of Pergamum - Was the church in Satan's City.
 - d) The Church of Thyatira - Was the Adulterous Church.
2. Many important figures from secular history are associated with Sardis.
 - a) The Greek philosopher Thales
 - b) Athenian legislator Solon

- c) Sardis is also remembered as the first center for minting of gold and silver coins.
- d) But more than anything Sardis is remembered for being defeated by a surprise attack because of overconfidence.

3. Vs 3

- a) *"I will come like a thief"*

II. THE DISCRIPTION OF THE LORD

1. Vs 1

- a) Cf. 1:4

2. Vs 1

- a) *"The words of Him who has the seven Spirits of God."*
 - 1) Refers to the Holy Spirit in all of His fulness and completeness.
- b) *Isaiah 11:2*

3. There were the 7 churches and now the sevenfold ministry and presence of the Holy Spirit.

- a) And the Holy Spirit was active in all seven churches to which Christ wrote to.

4. Vs 1

- a) *"and the seven stars"*
- b) Cf. Vs 20

III. THE CONDEMNATION OF THE CHURCH

1. Vs 1

- a) *"I know your works"* deeds
- b) *"you have a reputation of being alive"*
 - 1) The word on the street was that this was a pretty good church.
- c) *"but you are dead"*

A. CHRISTIAN IN NAME ONLY

- 1. Sardis may well be the birthplace of "NOMINAL CHRISTIANITY"
 - a) *"Nominal"* - means in name only.

2. *Isaiah 29:13*

3. *Matthew 23:27-28*

B. THEY HAD INCOMPLETE WORKS

1. Vs 2a

a) *"Wake up and strengthen what remains and is about to die"*

2. Vs 2b

a) *"for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God"*

1) **"complete"** - finished or fulfilled

3. The believers in Sardis were physically alive but spiritually dead.

IV. THE DIRECTIVE TO THE CHURCH

1. Christ directive was given to three groups of people in the church.

a) The Lost

b) The Carnal - saved but act like their lost

c) True Believers - they loved God and were trying to make the church work.

A. RECALL YOUR FOUNDATION

1. Vs 3

a) *"Remember then what you received and heard"*

2. Remember the truths you had been taught from God's word!!

a) Remembering the Gospel.

b) Remembering the teaching of the apostles.

c) They needed to reaffirm the teachings of sin and salvation and holy living.

3. Vs 3b

a) *"If you will wake up"*

b) *"I will come like a thief"*

4. Vs 2a

5. **Ephesians 5:14**

6. Vs 3

a) *"and you will not know @ what hour I will come against you"*

7. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Why we have Church Membership

8. Church Membership is our attempt to be a church full of believers.

9. Vs 3a

B. STAY STRONG

1. Vs 4

a) *"People who have not soiled their garments"*

2. Vs 4

a) *"Yet you have a few names in Sardis"*

3. "The few" vs "The many"

a) God always has a remnant!

C. HOLD FAST

1. Vs 3b

a) *"keep it"* - hold on, hold fast

2. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

3. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

4. So Christ's directive to the church if they have any chance of survival it must **"Hold Fast"** to **TRUTH**.

5. Vs 3

a) "Remember then what you have received and heard"

D. CHANGE COURSE

1. Vs 3b

a) *"Keep it and repent"*

2. God's desire is for the church to be pure and holy.

3. And in Sardis there were a **MANY** who had ***"defiled their garments"***

a) To defile is to make foul; dirty; unclean or morally polluted.

V. FINAL DECLARATION

1. Finally Jesus **DESCRIBES** rewards for those who participate in **REVIVAL**.

A. CLOTHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. Vs 4

2. First we need to understand that all true believers are clothed in the righteousness of Christ at the moment of Salvation.

3. *Luke 19:7-9*

B. OUR NAMES IN THE BOOK

1. Vs 5

2. This does not teach that one can lose his or her salvation.

a) But rather a promise that his name will not be blotted out.

3. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

4. *Ephesians 4:29-32*

5. Vs 5

a) The ones who conquer will be clothed thus in white garments.

6. **HOWEVER** we will also be seen in the character of how we lived.

a) "*Our righteousness*"

7. *Revelation 19:7-8*

a) We will be seen for what we did for Christ!!!

8. Ancient Cities kept registers of all their citizens.

a) If they died or committed a crime they were removed.

C. CONFESSED BEFORE THE FATHER

1. Vs 5c

a) "*I will confess his name before my Father*"

2. *Matthew 10:32*