

“Sardis- The Church in Name Only” 8/26/18

Revelation 3:1-6

Sermon Series- “Jesus’ Message to the Seven Churches of Revelation”

Economic- Very wealthy. Crossroads with 5 roads. Wool garments traded. \$\$

Political- Roman assize town where justice was administered.

Religious- No major Caesar worship. Worship of Cybele (earth goddess).

Wannabees in music, sports, performance artists. Desired a NAME for themselves

A. The letter to the church contains the CORRESPONDENT’S TITLE
(Revelation 1:16; 20; 2:1; 7 Spirits; 7 Stars)

B. The letter to the church contains Jesus’ CRITICISM
He knows their works:

- 1) NAME- growth, money, talent, programs, busyness.
- 2) DEAD- no authentic spiritual life (cf. John 12:43)

We demonstrate spiritual life through: 1) Loving God; 2) Obeying God; 3) Prayer;
4) Being in the Word; 5) Evangelism; 6) Loving each other/forgiveness 7) Service

C. The letter to the church contains Jesus’ COUNSEL
1) Prove yourself Intentionally **Watchful** (wake up! 1 Tim 4:16)
2) **Strengthen** the remaining living things. Jesus expects return.
3) **Remember** HOW you received/heard (Gal 3:1-5; 2 Tim 3:5).
Holy Spirit is necessary (Prayer, fasting, seeking)
4) Hold fast; **OBEY** it!
5) **Repent** (1 John 1:9).

D. The letter to the church contains Jesus’ CONSEQUENCE
1) Risk of judgment because we are not intentionally watching.

E. The letter to the church contains Jesus’ COMMENDATION
(Verse 4; few names who haven’t *defiled* their garments; lack of holiness;
Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 1:9- “worthy”, Luke 21:36; Eph 4:1; Col 1:10)

“Pursue... holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14

F. The letter to the church contains Jesus’ CLOSURE
(God’s Book: Ex 32:32; Ps 69:28; Mal 3:16; Dan 12:1; Ps 139:16;
Book of Life: Phil 4:3; Rev 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19)

*“Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes
that Jesus is the Son of God?”* 1 John 5:5

Going Deeper *God wants you to have an ear to hear and to determine by the Holy Spirit to be alive to Him through your actions!*

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples

What is the state of churches in the world today? The answer is that evangelical churches generally throughout the world are in a state of weakness. There are tens of thousands of such churches but spiritual revival is only rarely to be found among them. Many churches have the appearance of life. They have a name to live but are dead. Conviction of sin, appetite for prayer meetings, and the study of doctrine are the exception. There is enthusiasm for Hollywood-type videos, glossy easy-to-read magazines, sermonettes, exciting campaigns, variety programs in the services and entertainment. Spirit-filled preachers who expound the Scriptures so as to bring transformation of life to all classes of society are uncommon. 20th century evangelicalism bears marks of superficiality. Truths loved by our forefathers are now largely despised. To contend for them is regarded with cynicism and even ridicule. Evangelicalism today is world-wide but is deficient in depth, in doctrine, in unity and in vital spiritual life. **(E. Hulse)**