

The Church at Sardis **Revelation 3.1-6**

Introduction: Have you ever seen a church that was satisfied with itself? That wanted to keep things the way they have always been? A church that is resting on its past history?

Jesus Speaks (v.1).

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.’ ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father Matthew 7.21 (esv)

This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; Matthew 15.8 (esv)

The Charge is made (vv.1-2).

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.’ ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

²Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

Matthew 24.42-43 (esv)

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷And the

rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” Matthew 7:26-27 (ESV)

The warning is given (v.3).

Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, Luke 14:26-29 (ESV)

The Promise is made (v.4-6).

Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. Job 29.14

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life. Rev. 21.27