

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 6 (3:1-6) Sardis Church

Introduction: Sardis was capitol of ancient Lydia, the center of the textile industry (dying wool was invented there). Many trade guilds, famous for its earthquakes and was destroyed in 17 A.D. The rebuilt Sardis is the one this letter was to. It had been conquered by all the greats - Cyrus the Great, Alexander the Great, Titus the Great.

- v1 - "seven spirits of God" - the essence of God, seven the perfect number, thus the perfect God (Isaiah 11:1-9), perfect righteousness, seven spirits of God equal the perfect character of God.
- "seven stars" - seven preachers in His hands
 - "know thy works" - This is said seven times, once to each Church. God always knows tge Church. He knows YOUR spiritual condition right now. We can't hide it from God, can from each other, but not from God. God KEEPS ON knowing.

JESUS' EVALUATION OF THE CHURCH:

- "name" - means reputation.
 - "lives but are dead" - They seem to be alive and doing great things for God, impressing the whole world, etc., (describe). God knows all the outside appearances.
 - "I know that you are dead" - I know your reputation. Even though we did not live then, we know exactly what kind of people were there. They had the sweetest people, they just oozed swetness with one hand and held a dagger with the other. They gossiped about one another, appeared to be great, but were dead in God's sight.
What about that person raising you-know-whatg at home at the top of his/her voice, blessing everybody out, the phone rings and with sweetness drippimg off his/her voice says "hello"...That's what Jesus is talking about. How many of us have done that? Ask God to forgive you if you have, that's what Jesus is talking about. One has the reputation that he/she is so sweet and so wonderful but he/she is really dead. There is no subsitutie for the Holy Spirit.
- v2 - "be watchful" - become watchful, were not before, but become now. Look for Jesus' return.
- "strengthen the things" - stability of character, know the word of God.
 - "perfect works" - Nobody is perfect we say, so what is Jesus talking about? DIVINE GOOD. Of course nobody is perfect, but stay in fellowship with God and then everything you do while in fellowship with God IS PERFECT in God's sight. That's what Jesus is talking about. STAY IN FELLOWSHIP with God and you will be perfect. God removes all the dross, all the extra and only the divine goodness is left.
- v3 - "watch" - MAYBE you will and maybe you won't (3rd class conditional). I'm not going to make you, but you ought to do it.
- v4 - "a few names" - there were some still true to the doctrines of God.
"white" - perfection of God
- v5 - "white raiment" - perfect righteousness of God.
- "not blot out" - every born again believer of Jesus Christ has his/her name written down in the Book of Life. God's pencil has no eraser. He will never rub out a name. IF yhou are saved, born again, then your name is there forever.
 - "confess" - to acknowledge
 - "confess His name" - to name His name. Did you know that Jesus Christ has caled YOUR name before God the Father? "There's 'so and so' down there atBaptist Church in

He/she's one of mine. Father, watch out for him/her, take care of him/her." When you die, Jesus calls your name and says, 'look here, here's '.....your name.....' Your name is written down and it will never be erased.

v6 - "let him hear" - God is speaking today. he spoke to the Churches in Asia Minor and He is speaking to our Church today. IF YOU WILL HEAR, YHOU WILL BE AN OVERCOMER.

Who says this book of Revelation is a mixed up, hard to understand book? It is very exciting and more excitement is to be found in the next chapter.

THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD (Isaiah 11:1-9)

1. The Spirit of the Lord - given to men to divinely equip them for some demanding task (power, wisdom, etc.)
2. The Spirit of Wisdom - given the ability to discern, to choose what is best, answer critics/criticism.
3. The Spirit of Understanding - Discrimination - insight into man's heart.
4. The Spirit of Counsel - Counselor, how to conduct self, to advise and to instruct.
5. The Spirit of Might - Ability, courage, strength of heart.
6. The Spirit of Knowledge - Understanding gained first hand (deep knowledge)
7. The Spirit of Fear - Reverent, obedient before the majesty and holiness of God.

SUMMARY OF THE CHURCH OF SARDIS

1. Was active, organized, tithed, worshipped, popular.
- All activity is useless unless done for Jesus Christ. (songs, messages, Sunday School, ordinances, etc)
2. Strived to please man rather than Jesus Christ.
3. Forms, etc. were right, but had no power. No communication with God. Had rituals, etc., but no inward force.
4. What is true in the Church is true in individuals. They were absorbed with the externals and had lost the Spirit.
5. Jesus Christ will personally deal with those who are not His.
6. Signs of life: growth, compassion, love and emotion.