

CP— 3/9/25

Revelation 3:1-6—Lessons from Sardis— The Dead/Nominal Church

Sermon Outline:

1. Recipient — “to the angel of the church in Sardis” (1a)

- Sardis
 - Sardis was a city that was known for being taken over because of their unawareness and apathy. Their “security” caused them to get complacent
 - **The church has become like the city in their deadness and only the True God could bring that which was dead back to life.**
 - **And it wasn’t Persia or Rome that they should fear, but the Lord Jesus**

2. Description of Jesus (1b)

- Christ identifies himself in a compelling way
 - “He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars”
 - It is reference to the Holy Spirit, how was given to the church by Christ
 - Seven stars
 - The pastors/leaders of the churches
 - Jesus is the one who gives the Holy Spirit and sovereignly leads the church through shepherds
 - Christ is the One who possess what this church needs most: the Holy Spirit and faithful shepherds
 - The revival they need was in the hands of the Lord

3. Complaint (1c)

- not word of commendation
 - “I know your works, you have a **reputation** of being alive, but you are dead”
 - Reputation = name
 - God sees all things but he also sees “through” all things
 - The church looks fine and healthy, but the Lord says they’re dead
- The church was spiritually dead
- Death is a result of sin
 - Friendship with the world
 - Religiosity (Pharisees)
 - Samson — Judges 16
- This was a church that for so long quenched the Holy Spirit, that He was no longer at work within it’s gathering or its going

4. Command (5 imperatives) (2-3)

- wake up (be watchful)
 - This is the call of the Christian life
 - 1 Corinthians 16:13, Colossians 4:2, 1 Peter 5:8, Romans 13:11-12
- Strengthen what remains
- Remember what you have received
- Keep it
- Repent

5. Consequence of Disobedience (3b)

- Christ will come like a thief and they will not know at what hour
 - Christ is forevermore “coming” to His church is encouragement, reproof, and correction

6. Promise (4-5)— “To the one who conquers”

- Will be clothed in white garments
- **Name** will not be blotted out of the book of life
- **Name** will be confessed before the Father and His angels

7. Listen to what the Spirit says (6)

- What a dead church needs is the Spirit of God to fall afresh on the people
- Christ is the One who gives the Holy Spirit
- Christ sees through the religious smoke and charades
- It's our duty to be watchful
- Repent and ask the Lord to revive us
- Christ will reward the faithful

Small Group Discussion:

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture and sermon Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. What does this passage teach us about how Christ sees nominal Christianity? Define nominal Christianity in your own words. Would nominal describe your faith?
3. How can a church have a reputation for being alive, but seen as dead in the eyes of the Lord? What brings deadness in the life of a believer? How does one escape it?
4. How do the 5 imperatives the Lord give Sardis apply to your life individually and to the church as a whole? What are some practical ways we can apply this text?
5. Spend time in prayer that we would be people sensitive and filled with the Holy Spirit. That we wouldn't be alive in name only.