

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Session 8

Section 2: The Letters to the Churches – Rev 2&3

SARDIS: Reputation without spiritual substance (Rev. 3:1-6)

I. THE CHURCH OF SARDIS

WAKE UP! YOU CAN'T REST ON YOUR PAST SUCCESSES.

A. Background

1. Sardis was a wealthy city that boasted of being impregnable because of its topography suited for military defense. Sardis was devoted to the worship of the mother-goddess Cybele.
2. One of the cities that was greatly impacted by the revival in Ephesus. The Church in Sardis had a great reputation from the time of the revival but had lost the heart of it.

B. Revelation of Jesus

1. He who has the seven spirits of God
 - a. Is 11:1-2
 - (1) Spirit of Yahweh
 - (2) Spirit of Wisdom
 - (3) Spirit of Understanding
 - (4) Spirit of Counsel
 - (5) Spirit of Might
 - (6) Spirit of Knowledge
 - (7) Spirit of the Fear of Yahweh
 - b. Is 61:1
2. He who has the seven stars
 - a. 1 Pet 5:1-4 The Chief Shepherd

C. Affirmation

1. None – ouch!
- D. Rebuke
- a. You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead
 - (1) Mt 23:27 Beautiful monuments to past glory, but no life
 - (2) How do we get here?
 - b. Your works have not been found complete in the sight of My God
 - (1) Eph 2:10
 - (2) Reaching for obedience in what you know?
- E. Exhortation
1. Wake up and keep watching!
 - a. Mt 26:41
 2. Strengthen what remains and is about to die
 - a. Feed
 - b. Exercise
 - c. Care for...
 3. Remember (Rev 2:5 Ephesus)
 - a. Received – what you have been given
 - (1) Salvation
 - (2) Multiple graces in your life
 - b. Heard
 - (1) the Word which gives life – 1 Jn 1:1-3
 - (2) the Testimonies of what God has done – Hab 3:2
 4. Keep it
 - a. Hang on to it - hold fast - something is trying to steal it from you
 - b. Stand guard! Don't let anyone take it from you.
 5. Repent
 - a. Requires a change in direction
 6. If not, I will come like a thief and you will not know when I come against you.
 - a. Suffer loss
 - b. This is not the rapture...

- F. He who overcomes – the rewards
1. Those who have not soiled their garments will walk with me in light-brightness for they are worthy. (Col 1:9-10; Mat 10:38; Eph 4:1; Phil 1:27; 1Thes 2:12; 2Thess 1:11)
 2. Garments of light
 - a. Mt 17:2
 - b. Mk 9:3
 - c. Lk 9:29
 - d. Rev 19:8 Righteous Deeds
 - e. Are these the same as the Robe of Righteousness?
 - (1) Is 61:10
 - (2) Zech 3:1-7
 - (3) Rev 1:5-6 & Ex 28:31
 3. His reputation will be unstained and remain
 - a. I will not blot out your name (reputation) from the Book of Life
 - (1) Neh 13:14
 - b. You will not suffer loss...
 - c. Diff between the redeemed and the wicked
 - Ps 69:28
 4. I will confess (declare) his name and reputation to my Father and the angels