

Sermon Notes for March 8, 2020

THE DEAD CHURCH: SARDIS – REVELATION 3:1-6

SERIES: *WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO OUR CHURCH?*

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—**Revelation 1:4-5 (NASB)**

1. SARDIS: A _____ CITY AND CHURCH

- Was one of the wealthiest cities of Asia Minor.
- It was the first city to mint gold and silver into coins
- Textiles was a major industry. Sardis first developed the process for dying wool.
- Due to its geographical location, surrounded by sheer cliffs and hillsides it was considered impregnable. It was invaded and defeated at least twice.
- In AD 17 Sardis was leveled by a massive earthquake, and was rebuilt by the Roman emperor Tiberius.
- Christ's letter does not address persecution, bad theology, false teachers, compromise or specific sin.
- He said they were dead.

2. THE DIVINE SOLUTION TO THE _____ CHURCH

¹ "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. **Revelation 3:1 (NASB)**

¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. **Revelation 1:16 (NASB)**

3. THE _____ OF THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

¹ And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **Ephesians 2:1 (NASB)**

¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, **Colossians 2:13 (NASB)**

² 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. **Revelation 3:2 (NASB)**

²⁰ She said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. ²¹ Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison. **Judges 16:20-21 (NASB)**

4. THE CHURCH WAS _____ DEAD

² 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. ³ 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. **Revelation 3:2-3 (NASB)**

²⁰ O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly *and* empty chatter *and* the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"—²¹ which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you. **1 Timothy 6:20-21 (NASB)**

5. REGARDING THOSE WITH _____ GARMENTS

⁴ 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. **Revelation 3:4 (NASB)**

¹⁴ I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **Revelation 7:14 (NASB)**

¹⁰ I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness; As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. **Isaiah 61:10 (NASB)**

6. THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

⁵ 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. **Revelation 3:5 (NASB)**

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? **1 John 5:4-5 (NASB)**

⁶ 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' **Revelation 3:6 (NASB)**