

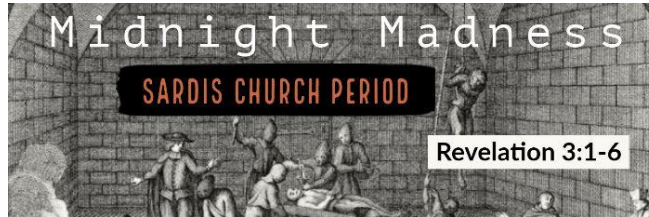
Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Revelation – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Revelation 3:1-6 – Sardis Church Period; the Midnight of the Dark Ages

Today's Message:

"Midnight Madness!"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we continued with the fourth letter to Thyatira. Jesus Christ reminded them that He was the Son of God. It was a busy church that was tolerating Jezebel to teach and seduce God's people to sin! Today, we come to Sardis. This letter will be 1 of only 2 with **NO** commendation. Interestingly, Jesus will not speak to this church of trouble from the outside like Smyrna or the inside like Thyatira. Jesus will plainly say that it is a **DEAD** church! Now, they had a name that they were alive, but they were dead. That happens when you have stale religion without the **SPIRIT** of the living God present!

LEARNING TOGETHER

Seven Letters to Seven Churches

Historically – 7 real churches | **Devotionally** – all churches | **Doctrinally** – 7 periods of Church History

1. The Text Rev 3:1-6

#1. The Church – Sardis – “Red Ones” –Church History (1000AD-1500AD)

SUMMARY: This is written to detail the murderous events of the Dark Ages that were perpetrated by Papal Rome; truly “Midnight of the Dark Ages.”

HISTORY: As we look back on church history, what happened during this time?

1. This time in history begins in the middle of the Dark Ages to the “Reformation.”
 - ✓ *The Bubonic Plague (Black Death) reaches epic proportions – 1/3 of Europe!*
 - ✓ *The Roman Catholic Church controlled the world through religious tyranny.*
2. **The Crusades** – the name derived from a French term “taking up the cross”
 - ✓ *Millions of Bible believers, Muslims, non-conformists were murdered by RCC.*
 - ✓ *Seven Crusades (1095-1272AD) designed to take the Holy Land from Muslims.*
 - ✓ *Biblically, the purpose was for Satan to gain control of Jerusalem, establish a throne of power for his counterfeit religious system (for end times Antichrist).*
3. **The Inquisitions** – perhaps most horrific/barbaric events in history of mankind!
 - ✓ *Under guise of religion, RCC set out to “fight against heretics” in God’s name!*
 - ✓ *The RCC has never “officially” repented of these acts; PJP “profound regret”*
 - ✓ *As men, women, children were tortured, RC priest waited for confession!*

2021 VISION: Faithful in Little Things!
Making disciples and caring for souls!

- ✓ Over 50 million murders by RCC (not recorded by RC “church historians”)!
- ✓ RCC wanted to propagate the world – Christopher Columbus – flock of birds!

NOTE As a comparison, the Holocaust was said to include murder of 6-10 million Jews.

#2. The Commendation – there was **NO** commendation like the other letters.

1. It was a **dead** church ... *“thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead”*
 - ✓ Jesus Christ introduced the letter as He that **hath** the seven Spirits of God!
2. There was a **small remnant** ... *“thou hast a few names even in Sardis”*
 - ✓ No matter how apostate the nation of Israel became, God always had a remnant!
 - ✓ There was a remnant of faithful saints who were not defiled by Roman religion!
 - ✓ The **street preachers** of this time preached repentance and Rome’s destruction!
 - We (**Baptists**) are often referred to as Protestants; **that is not correct.** Our spiritual lineage did not come out, nor attempt to reform the RCC. Some preachers of this time (stood against RCC) – John Wycliffe, John Huss, Peter Waldo, William Tyndale
 - At least 5 major points of theology were shared by these born-again believers:
 - 1) The Bible **ALONE** was the final authority for all matters of faith and practice.
 - 2) Baptism was **NOT** connected with salvation in any way; believers, by immersion.
 - 3) Separation of Church and State. (**NO** state churches... no politics)
 - 4) They did not pray to or for a dead person; and **PURGATORY** was not biblical!
 - 5) Complete rejection of the Roman Catholic **MASS**, and anything connected to it.

NOTE The Holy Spirit is life! He lit your fire on the day of salvation... so burn for His glory!

#3. The Condemnation – they were ready to **DIE**; their works were not perfect.

1. It was a **weak** church ... *“ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect”*
 - ✓ Jesus Christ told them to **be watchful**... Isa 62:6; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Pet 4:7; 5:8
 - ✓ Jesus Christ said to **strengthen what remained**... Deut 3:28; Job 4:4-5; Isa 35:3
 - ✓ Their works were **not perfect before God**... 1Ki11:4; Isa 57:12; Dan 5:27; Mt 23:38

NOTE Dead religion appears outwardly righteous; inwardly it is full of hypocrisy, iniquity!

2. The Lesson (How can we learn from our passage today?)

1. It is possible for a well-known church or “Christian” to be **DEAD**.

- The Spirit of the living God brings life! If He is in you, there must be life and works!

❖ **Question:** “Is your faith/religion dead?” Gen1:2; Ro8:11; 1Ths5:19; Eph4:30; Ja2:26

2. Remember how you received and heard the truth; hold it fast, and **REPENT!**

- You are in danger! Go back to the beginning! Revive your relationship with Christ!

❖ **Question:** “Will you revive for Christ?” Ezra9:8; Ps85:6; Ezek36:31; Php4:9; 2Ti1:13