

The Lion and The Lamb

Revelation 3:1-6

- The Apostle John has been given four messages to share with four churches > **1. Ephesus** was considered a loveless church, **2. Smyrna** the suffering church, **3. Pergamos** the compromising church, **4. Thyatira** the corrupt church. Now we come to a fifth message given to the church of Sardis located about thirty miles from Thyatira, it was a military city, it was an important commercial city to the Roman Empire because it lay at the junction of five main roads, making it a center for trade.

V1-6

- **V1** speaking to this church Jesus reminds them that He Who has the seven Spirits of God which reference the Holy Spirit as seven speaks of completion, and the seven stars are the angels or pastors of these churches that He is speaking to. So in speaking to the Pastors He is also addressing the entire congregation of that church.
- Just as in 1:20 Jesus says “**He Who has**” meaning He holds both the pastors and churches in His Hand, therefore He knows your works, everything and everyone we who name The name of Jesus will give an account of what we’ve done and how we represented Him after we became Christians. This shows that it’s not about how much of The Holy Spirit you have, but how much of you does The Holy Spirit have.
- In knowing their works it reveals > **what a church is**, and **what a church does**, is never hidden from Jesus. The church of Sardis had a name, or a “reputation” of life and vitality, if you looked at the church of Sardis on the outside it had signs of life and vibrancy, for like the city itself the church of Sardis looked alive and well.
- But it wasn’t, despite their reputation of life, Jesus saw them for what they really were > “but you are dead” it shows that a good reputation is no guarantee of true healthy spirituality, for despite their good appearance, they were dead inside wow!
- To truly understand this you needed to know the history of Sardis, it once was the capital of the Lydian empire afterward it was conquered by the Persian empire led by King Cyrus who we are reading about in the book of Ezra.

- During this time Sardis was the first city to issue official government gold and silver coins called “the Lydian stater” and once Persian conquered them they combined it as the coinage of Lydia and Persia, that’s how important Sardis was to world commerce. But now that time has long passed, Sardis the city although important because of its trade routes had long seen its best days as a city of political influence
- Yet because of the trade routes, and commercialism that occurred in and near it, specifically luxury crimson dyed wool, so the city was wealthy and well known for its soft living and luxurious lifestyles. It had a well known reputation for apathy and immorality, having the fourth largest temple of Artemis, as well as the mother goddess Cy-be-le, having columns that were sixty ft high, and as wide as six ft two.
- When you have the combination of easy money and loose moral living, it will make any city notoriously soft and pleasure loving, and that is what had happened in Sardis, as it had become a city known for decadence and immorality.
- **V2-3** what had happened to the city, also happened to the church, and in our Lord’s Grace and Mercy He gives them an opportunity to correct what was wrong. The first instruction He gives them is to watch and strengthen the things that remain that are ready to die. So Jesus wanted them to examine, protect, and strengthen what they have, this tells us that although the spiritual condition of the church of Sardis was bad, it wasn’t hopeless, as there were some things that could be redeemed.
- Jesus hadn’t given up on them, and though it was late “that are ready to die” it was not too late. Don’t you love this, our God is a God that allows U-TURNS, Satan wants us to think that its too late when we’ve blown it multiple times, that there’s no use looking to Jesus now, so either give up or keep doing what you’ve been doing its who you are, but what we forget is that’s not Who The Lord is, He is a Redeeming God.
- They were performing works but they were not perfect before God, meaning they weren’t measuring up to The Lord’s standard. What we do should always be about pleasing God, meeting His standards, blessing Him, for it is He Who is watching.
- **V3** remember how you received and heard, then hold fast and repent, we all need to remember how the Word of God first impacted our hearts, the reception our souls gave to it, and then acted upon it as we held it close and repented of anything that it said was wrong and not pleasing in God’s sight, remember and never forget wow!

- **1Thess 2:13**- tells us a similar things of how the Thessalonians heard God's word and didn't think it was from man but understanding that is was the truth spoken directly from God. You ever have people after hearing a verse they don't like because it doesn't line up with their lifestyle say, who wrote that, wasn't that Paul or Peter, as if it was from their own hand, and somehow no longer The Word of God.
- The danger of not watching Jesus says is to miss His coming as a thief in the night, those who don't look for Jesus coming don't expect Him to come back, therefore they will be the ones who won't be going. You don't want Him to come back then He won't come back for you, Jesus doesn't force anyone to go who doesn't want to.
- **V4-6** like in Ephesus 2:6, and Thyatira 2:24, even among the loveless and dead there were a few who were faithful, and haven't defiled their garments meant had not given in to pagan worship, Jesus promises that they would walk with Him in white garments signifying purity, tha they had stayed true to Him.
- He will not blot out their names from the Book of life, in the ancient world, death of he who had a criminal conviction could lead to them having their name removed from the cities book of the living, which was the city' registry.
- Jesus is saying that neither death or sin keeps His overcomers from being assured of their heavenly citizenship in glory. Blotted out does that mean a person can lose their salvation, being saved one day with their name written in the book of life and another day fallen away and their names blotted out from the book of life.
- We need to look at the context of 3:5 the focus is of assurance, we shouldn't think that names are constantly being written and then erased, as if Jesus sits in heaven with a busy eraser > **Lk 10:20**. To reassure Jesus says He will confess their name before His Father and before His angels, don't hear this with apathy and ignore Jesus Gracious warnings, take heed and apply His truth that you may be blessed.