

An open wooden door stands in a dark, rocky landscape. Through the doorway, a bright sunset is visible over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the waves. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds.

R E V E L A T I O N
Jesus Wins

The Church in Sardis

Revelation 3:1-6

August 11, 2024

Many have said God knows the heart. This usually refers to individual Christians, but today we'll see how God can diagnose churches too. In Sardis, we'll find a church that looks good on the outside but is spiritually dead. We'll also see how Jesus says this church can become a healthy and thriving church.

Order Of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

From Psalm 98

Leader: *Oh sing to the Lord a new song,*

All: *for he has done marvelous things!*

Leader: *His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.*

All: *He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

Leader: *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!*

All: *Shout for joy before the Lord, the King*

Songs of Praise

All Hail The Power of Jesus Name

O Worship the King

Offering

Confession of Sin

Our Good and Gracious Heavenly Father, we call you King, but we too often continue to act as if we had no king but ourselves. We call you Lord, but we are too often ruled only by our own selfish desires. Grant us the grace to see our sinfulness so that we will forsake all hope in our own goodness and depend only on the righteousness earned and given to us by our savior Jesus Christ, and grant us the grace to see your work of restoration in us, so that we will live boldly as your people on a mission of grace and restoration to a world who needs you as much as we do.

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Declaration

Christ is Risen

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism #116 - #117

Q. Why do Christians need to pray?

A. Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us.

And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking God for them.

Q. What is the kind of prayer that pleases God and that he listens to?

A. First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, revealed to us in his Word, asking for everything God has commanded us to ask for.

Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery, so that we humble ourselves in God's majestic presence.

Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord. That is what God promised us in his Word.

Pastoral Prayer

Children's Message

Sermon

The Church in Sardis

Revelation 3:1-6

Pastor James Brignac

Song of Response

Cornerstone

Benediction

Sermon Notes

Dead Church

What do we know about this city?

What is nominalism?

*Almost the entire church has capitulated to the surrounding world of pagan religion and Judaism, and instead of being an influence on the culture, it had become influenced by that culture. - **Simon Kistemaker***

What does Jesus say about their works?

Deuteronomy 15:21

Spiritual Vitality

How does a church become spiritually dead? What happened in Sardis?

1 Peter 5:8

How does a church grow spiritually?

Acts 2:42

Who does Jesus point this church towards for help?

2 Corinthians 3:18

Walking in Faith

Who is the faithful remnant? What are they doing?

1 John 1:9

[Worthiness is] the response of gratitude and devotion to God for the new life in Christ. - Philip Hughes

What is meant by walking in white robes?

2 Corinthians 5:21

What is the final promise?

John 10:28

Announcements

Learn *God's ways*
of handling money.



Ramsey Financial Peace University
Detail on our web site



August 16-18
Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church

Artist Connection Theatre Presents



Women's Outing Sept 22 at 3:00 PM
See website for details



Ladies' Dinner Out

August 22 at 6:30
Trattoria di Bernardone, Durbin



M.E.A.T – Men Eating and Talking
Steve Pruetts' Home September 16 at 6:30 PM



Multiple small groups formed
Contact Pastor James for info



Every Friday at 8:00 AM
Contact Carl Hill for details

Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe a spiritually dead church?
2. Does our specific community context present any unique challenges?
3. Do you believe the regular means of grace (word, sacrament, and prayer) are sufficient for a church to thrive?
4. How can Christians engage the culture and not be transformed by it?
5. What do you believe God desires from Christians?
6. What steps are you taking now to stay spiritually healthy?