

HANDOUT Revelation 3: 1-6: “Letter to the Church at Sardis”

Christ has Called Us to be Counter-Culture! To Follow What God says in His Word... Instead of Adopting the Worlds Values, Behaviors, and lifestyles that directly oppose God’s Word. Heb 12:1-2

Were in the Midst of a Spiritual War! Satan is Seeking to Destroy everything God Created? Remember, *Only Gods Word Will Guard You and Keep You Safe from the Changing Culture and its Compromise?!*

Read Rev 3:1-6 is a letter of Rebuke...Devoid of Any Commendation!”

- **Barclay says Sardis was a City of Decadence.** The Combination of easy money and a Loose Moral Environment made the People of Sardis Notoriously Soft and Pleasure loving. **Sardis was a name of contempt.** Its people were notoriously loose-living, notoriously pleasure-and luxury loving.”

Vs 1: Christ introduces himself as the one that holds the 7 Spirits and 7 Stars.The 7-Fold Spirit is The 7-Fold Character of God...The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Life-Wisdom-Truth-Purity-Holiness-Power & Love

- **We Learned in the first Chapter of Revelation...Christ is also Revealed as the one who holds the 7 Stars which are the 7 Leaders of the 7 Churches.** The Repetition of the Number “7” helped indicate this because “7” is the number of Completeness in the Bible.
- **KEY: Jesus Holds the Fullness of the Spirit of God, and the Fullness of the Church.**

Verse 1-b: “I Know Your Deeds” Our Actions and Thoughts are an “Open Book” to Christ...Nothing is hid from the “Omniscient “All-Knowing” God” **God Looks Into Our Hearts...We Cannot Hide from Him!**

- Christ goes on to say, **“You have a Reputation of being Alive, But You Are Dead!”** You are Not what You appear to be...**Your Appearance is a Lie! Read 2 Timothy 2:15**

A Church or Believer is Apostate and Dying When...It is Content to Rest on its Past laurels...It is more Concerned with Liturgical forms than a Spiritual Hunger for the Lost...***It focuses on Curing Social Ills rather than Changing People’s Hearts...***It is more Concerned with what Men Think than what God said...It’s more Enamored with Doctrinal Creeds & Systems of Theology than with the Word...***It Loses its Conviction that Every Word of the Bible is the Word of God.***

VS 2&3: Gives A Warning! “WAKE UP!” Strengthen What Remains!” *The Words “What Remains” tell us that there are those who are Seeking to Live for Christ...Some that had True Life and Spirituality!*

VS-2 “Your Deeds are Unfinished in the Sight of God”: Their Hearts were Not Filled with the “Fullness of Christ” But with the World...**Therefore, their Works came Short of Pleasing God** and They were Rebuked to Not let it Go any Further...Or Spiritual Deadness Would Come Upon Them!

- Their Flame of Testimony No Longer burned as it once did...But Sardis shows Us that the Lord Can Restore a Churches Radiance! **Jesus’ Resources are Available...Revival is Still Possible!**
- It Will Not Happen through Programs, fresh Strategic plans, Wishful thinking, re-written vision statements or core values, hiring or firing staff. **Jesus is Asking them to Strengthen Themselves in the Lord so that they Will be Able to Finish the Assignments He has for Them.**

The Word “Watch” is a Recurring Theme Throughout God’s Word. Watchfulness is to be the constant attitude of the Christian. (Rom 13:11; 1 Cor 16:13) **1 Peter 5:8:** Be on Watch Against the Devils Deceitful Tricks & Cunning Strategies. **Matthew 26:41:** Be on Watch against Temptation. **Matthew, Mark and 1Thess Be on Watch for the Coming of the Lord. Acts 20: 29-31** Watch Against False Teaching!

In Verse 3 Christ Exhorts them to Strengthen What Remains! His Solution for Sardis is the Same for Us Today: **Remember the Truth that We Received And HOLD FAST to it!** Failure to do this would Bring Judgment! **READ 1 Corinthians 15:58 & Hebrews 10:26-31**

NOTE VS-3: Judgment Will come like a Thief in the Night! Just as the Appearing of Christ to Rapture the Church. Without Notice. Suddenly. Unexpectedly!

Vs 4-6: Give Us an “Invitation and a Promise to the Godly Remnant” VS-4 “Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have Not Soiled their Clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

- **In Scripture Garments Represent Character (Isaiah 64:6; Jude 1:23) Soiled Cloths Denote: “Unclean Before God”! Dressed in White Denotes: Dressed in the Righteousness of God.**

Dressed in White comes with a Wonderful 3-Fold Promise: To be Dressed in White...Means In Christ, We Stand Righteous Before God!...Our Names will Not be Blotted Out of the Book of Life. And We Will Be Acknowledged Before God the Father!

The Difference Between the Condemned Majority with Imperfect Works and the Few Who Pleas God was “Purity” that came from Obediently Walking with Jesus.

The deadness and spiritual facade of most of the Christians in Sardis was related to their “Impure Lives”, as they Embraced the Sin of the World Around Them.

Jesus Explained the Absolute Necessity of this Being Clothed by God with His Garments of Purity and Righteousness in His Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matt 22)

- Real Righteousness is Receiving God’s Covering *Instead* of trying to Cover Ourselves.
- In Genesis 3 Adam and Eve tried to cover their own sin...**But God Provided them with a Covering that Came from Sacrifice.**

KEY: God's covering represents divine protection, spiritual safety, and the nurturing presence of God, acting as a shield for believers. Gods Armor Eph 6

VS-6 “He who has an Ear, let him Hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.” Like the Church at Sardis...We ALL Must Hear what the Spirit says to Us!

- **It is easy to Drift into Sleepy Spiritual Apathy, Especially when Things are going well and you tend To Look at Yourself as A-OK...I’m Doing Just Fine as I Am!**

This is A Major Error for Any Christian...As It Leads to A Dead Faith! However, there is Always Hope for the Dead Church or Believer, Because Jesus Can Lead them back to being Spirit-filled and Alive.

Sardis Teaches Us that We Must Beware of Our Success and Independence. Sardis also Teaches Us that We Need to be watchful at our strongest points. Where we say “I Would Never Do That” is the Exact Place We Must Guard Against.

Final Thought: The Church of Sardis Makes it Clear that We Must Hold Fast to God’s Truth!

- **We Must Guard Ourselves with His Word so that we Will Not Compromise Christ!**
- **We Must Choose to Daily, Deny Self, Pick Up Our Cross and Follow Him! Luke 9**

To Daily Stand Firm...Holding on to Truth...Having a Passion for Christ...Can Be One of the Most Difficult Tasks Facing the Believer or A Church...But it Is Our Greatest Responsibility Before Christ!

- **HERE’S WHY...The Church...Every Believer...is the Sole Pillar and Support of Truth in the World...There is No Other!**
- Our World is Changing and with Our Eyes Stayed on Christ We are to **Stand Firm!**
- **This is NOT a time To Huddle Together or Avoid Culture Out of Fear,**

Jesus did Not call US to Isolate...He Has Called US to INFILTRATE CULTURE...We are NOT to Evade...Rather We are to INVADE...CULTURE!

- **We do this by Standing On the Truth...Obeying God’s Word and Sharing His Truth, In Love, with All Those Around Us! May God Find Us Faithful!**

“LIFE” POINT: CAST OFF COMPROMISE AND CLING TO CHRIST!