

## LETTERS

Church, we must stay alert, don't be lured to sleep because of a good reputation

As believers, we must be quick to repent for our sin and disobedience, to make things right – these things will refine our walk in the Spirit

Why? Outward look and works don't always reflect a pure heart – a pure heart produces good works

Today we will look at the 5<sup>th</sup> letter to the Church at Sardis

**Rev 3:1-6 NKJV “And to the <sup>[a]</sup>angel of the church in Sardis write,**

**‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before <sup>[b]</sup>God. <sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. <sup>4</sup> <sup>[c]</sup>You have a few names <sup>[d]</sup>even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup> He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**

**<sup>6</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’**

The church in Sardis appeared to be alive but was spiritually dead

Church, there's a big difference in perceived faith and an actual living faith that produces life and action!

### **v. 1**

#### Appearance & Reality

You know everybody has a reputation of some kind. Sardis looked alive but was actually dead

It seemed active and alive but it was only a façade, programs, preaching, worship and money – but it was only a church mask, voice of the spiritual life that only flows through the person of the Holy Spirit!

Counterfeit Christianity, fake believers who only have an appearance but no substance, good at going through the motions, merely wearing a name, to fill seats and not transform lives!

**2 Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**

If it doesn't have true spiritual power and godliness then it's merely a form of a church

**v. 2,3**

Repent Individually

Wake up and strengthen what remains, but it's about to die

He's talking to the church but also us as individuals. True repentance means to turn away from sin and leave it behind

Jesus is saying, if you don't repent I will come like a thief in the night and you won't know the hour

True born again believers turn from sin, prioritize the Word, prayer and guidance of the Holy Spirit to totally transform our lives.

This church was spiritually dead. Wake up before it's too late!

**v. 4,5**

There was a faithful remnant

Despite Jesus' rebuke, there were a few that hadn't defiled their garments. They were pursuing Christ and will be counted worthy and will wear white robes

Their names will not be blotted out of the Book of Life!

The truth will be revealed and separate the real from the counterfeit!

Jesus commands complete obedience. We must be spiritually vigilant no matter how strong you think you are. A lack of obedience and watchfulness makes you easy prey

Disobedience is a key component to spiritual death

Church, headstrong believers who claim to be one thing living your own way instead of yielding to the Holy Spirit's plan, like Sardis, will have their names blotted out of the Book of Life!

No church is perfect, if there was, we would mess it up

The warning was you better repent and start living your life according to My Word, not your way!

Jesus is extending His mercy for them to turn back to life or die spiritually

My warning: You can do things your own way but you might wind up like Uzzah, who was struck, dead for mishandling the Ark of the Covenant improperly

There's always consequences for representing God incorrectly or mishandling His presence!

In a nutshell, God wants our whole heart and a real relationship with us and not just our leftovers

Today, do you just say you're a Christian but you're actually spiritually dead?

If so, it's not too late, repent and come to God wholeheartedly before He returns and you miss out!