



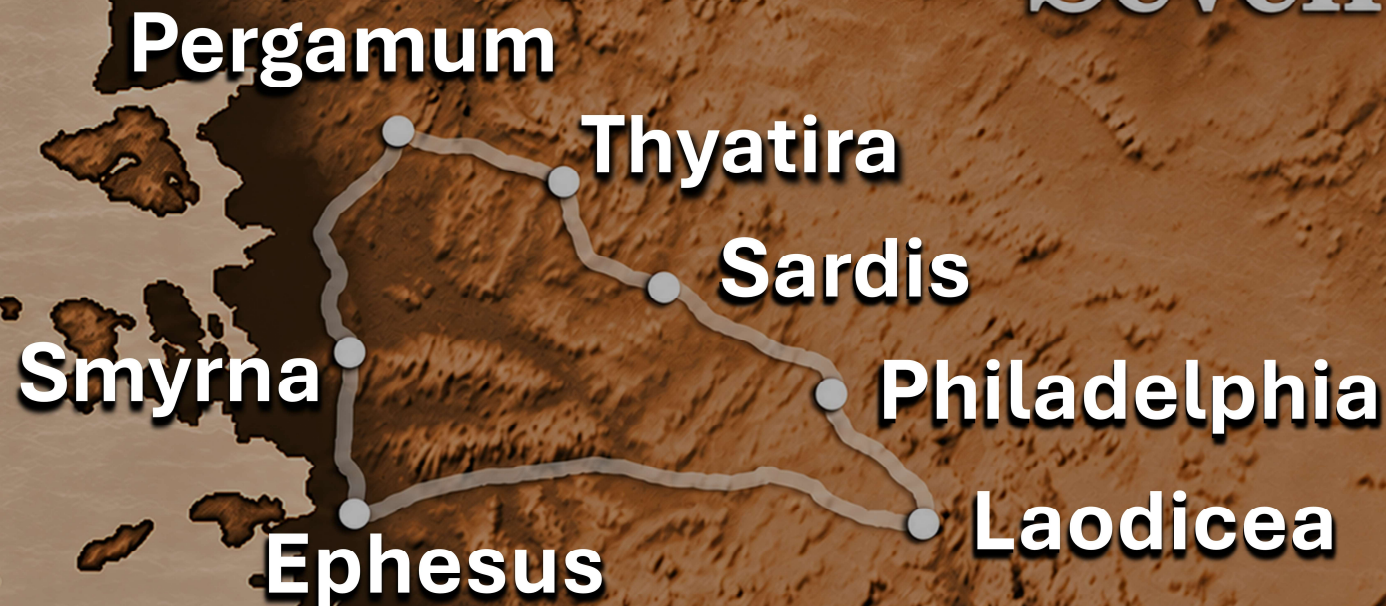
REVELATION

A STORY OF THE LAST DAYS

Part 9: "Sardis – a church full of zombies"

2026Oct11 Dan Fisher - Rev 9

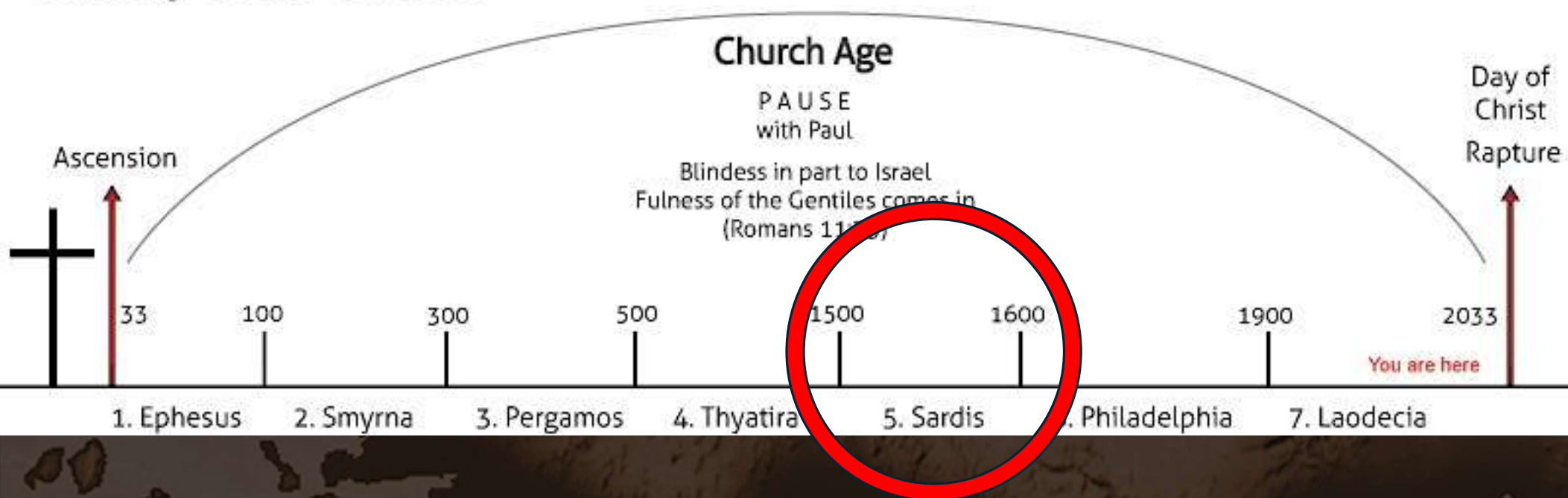
Message to the Seven Churches



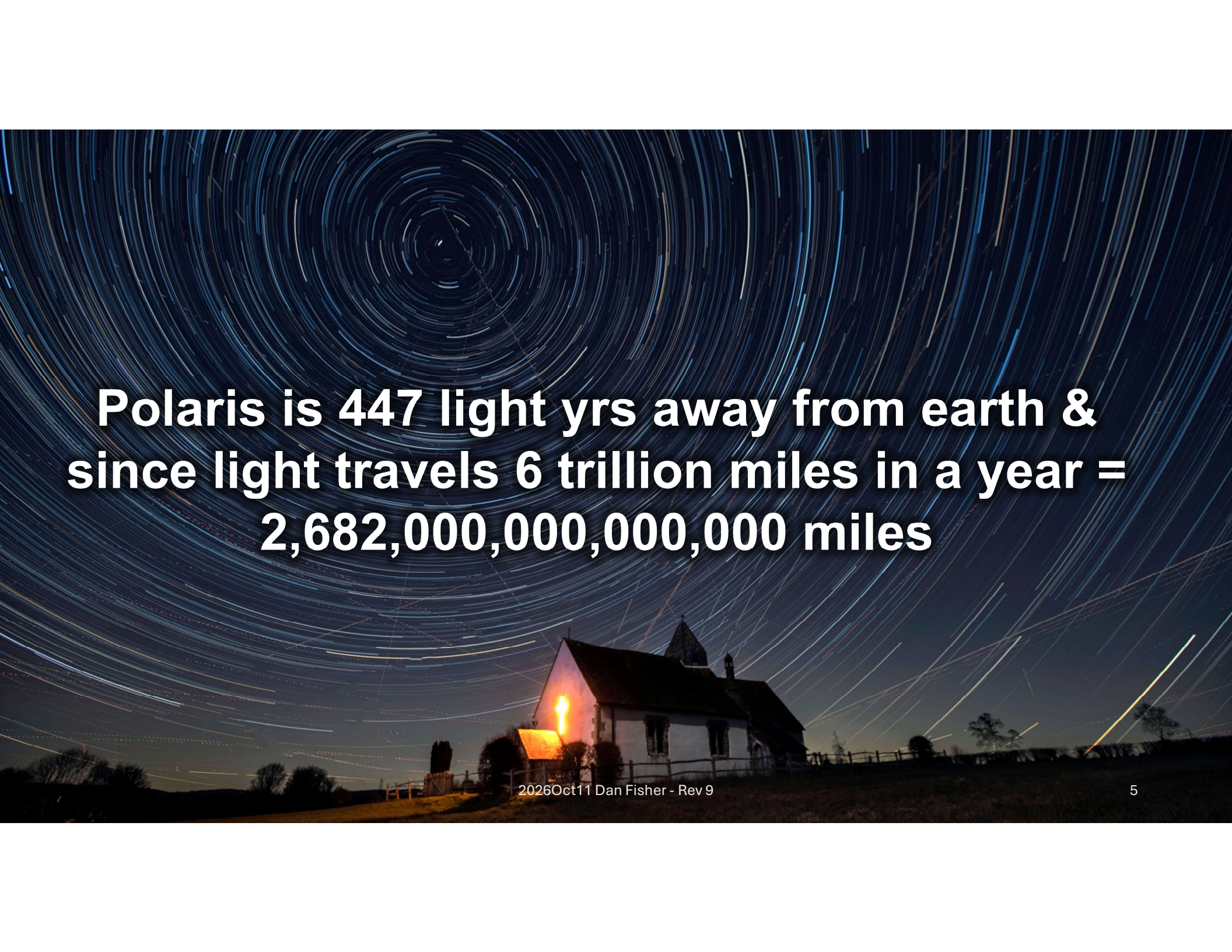
The things which are – 2026 Oct 11 Dan Fisher - Rev 9 **Rev 2-3: the churches**

The things which are – Rev 2-3: the churches

History of the Church





A long-exposure photograph of a night sky filled with star trails, creating concentric circular patterns. In the foreground, a small, white, stone church with a dark roof and a small steeple is visible. The church's interior lights are on, and a bright light source, possibly a fire or a large lamp, is visible through one of the windows, casting a warm glow. The church is situated on a grassy hill. The overall scene is a blend of natural beauty and human-made structure.

**Polaris is 447 light yrs away from earth &
since light travels 6 trillion miles in a year =
2,682,000,000,000,000 miles**

**The church at Sardis had a reputation of
being alive, but they were really dead**

Message to the Seven Churches



The things which are – 2026 Oct 11 Dan Fisher - Rev 9 **Rev 2-3: the churches**

Message to the Seven Churches

The church in Sardis was about 30 miles south of Thyatira

It likely started as an outgrowth of Paul's ministry in Ephesus – Acts 19:10

Aesop (Aesop's fables) was probably from Sardis



“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. ⁴ Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’” **Rev 3:1-6**

3:1 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

- **7 Spirits of God?**

“The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.” **Is 11:2**

“I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, ... ⁵ Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ I said, ‘No, my lord.’ ⁶ Then he said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. ... ¹⁰ These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which range through the whole earth.’” **Zech 4:2,5-6,10**

- 7 Stars?

“As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, ... the seven stars are the angels [messengers] of the seven churches” **Rev 1:20**

- I know your works – your reputation of being alive, but dead

“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.” **Jn 10:10**

“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Rom 6:11**



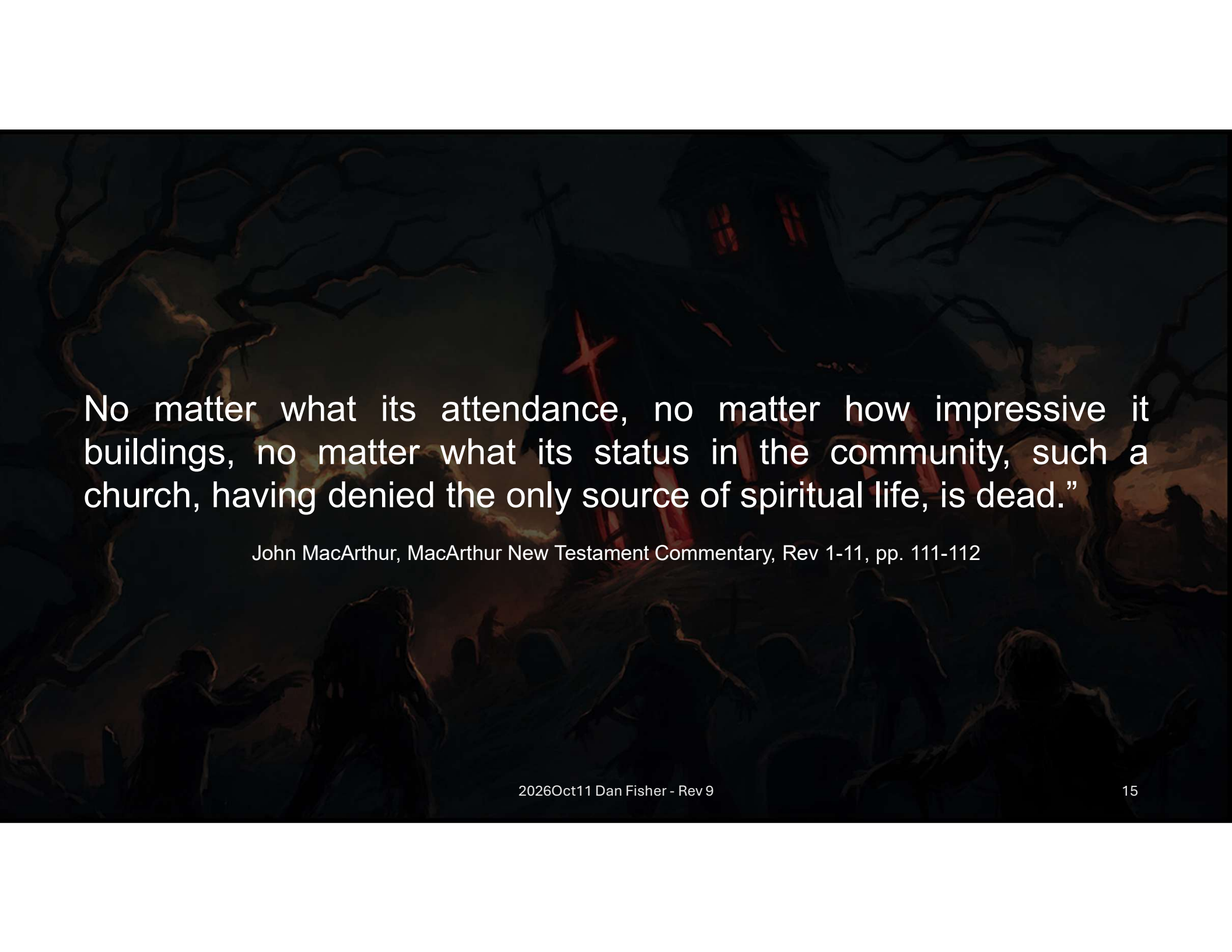
“The church at Sardis was like a museum in which stuffed animals are exhibited in their natural habitats. Everything appears to be normal, but nothing is alive.”

John MacArthur

MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Rev 1-11, pp. 111

A church is in danger of dying ...

- when it is content to rest on its past laurels
- when it is more concerned with liturgical forms than spiritual reality
- when it focuses on curing social ills rather than changing people's hearts through preaching the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ
- when it is more concerned with material than spiritual things
- when it more concerned with what men think than what God said
- when it is more enamored with doctrinal creeds and systems of theology than with the Word of God
- when it loses its conviction that every word of the Bible is the word of God Himself



No matter what its attendance, no matter how impressive its buildings, no matter what its status in the community, such a church, having denied the only source of spiritual life, is dead.”

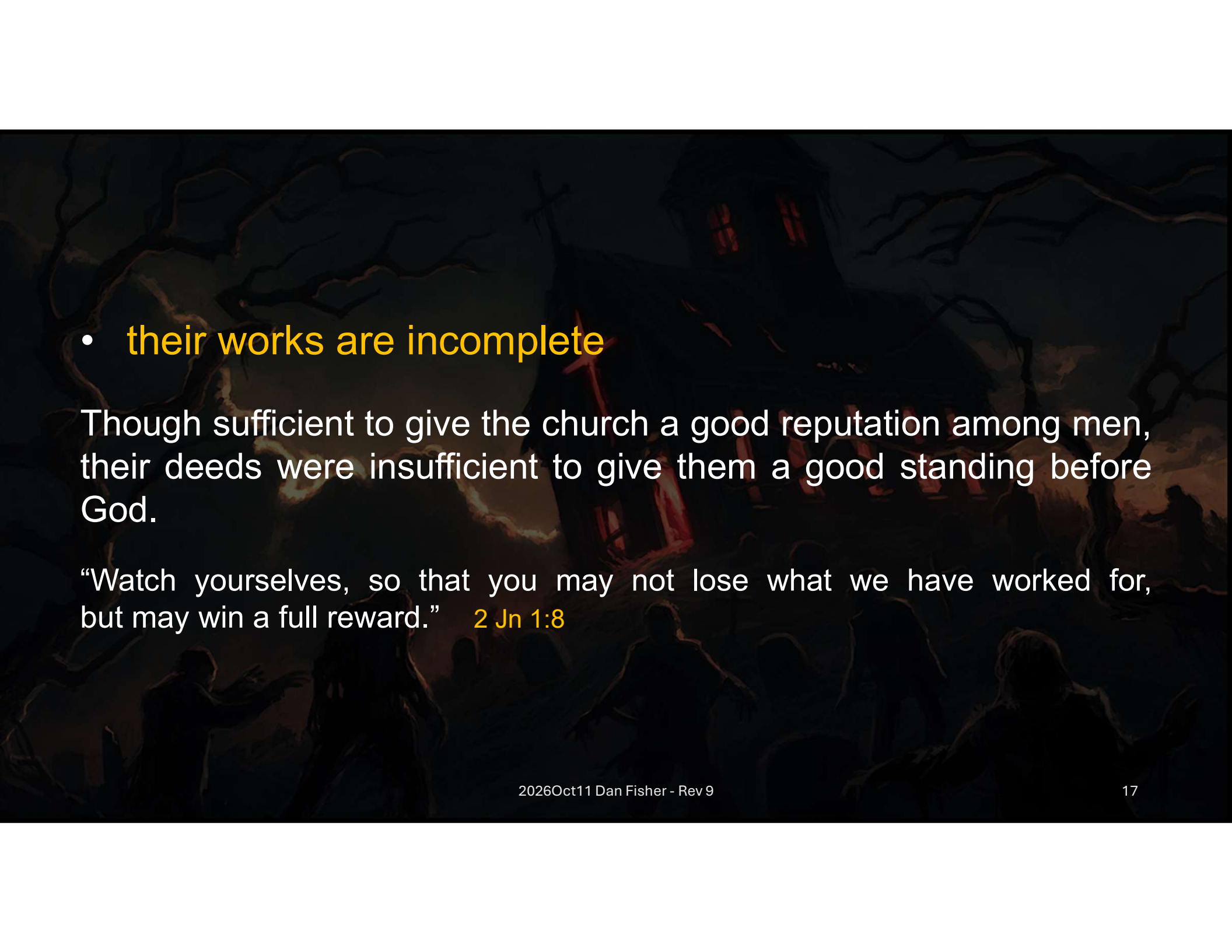
John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Rev 1-11, pp. 111-112



3:2 – “Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.”

- **wake up and strengthen**

“knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.” **Rom 13:11-14**

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- **their works are incomplete**

Though sufficient to give the church a good reputation among men, their deeds were insufficient to give them a good standing before God.

“Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.” **2 Jn 1:8**

3:3 — Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

- **remember**



John Newton kept this verse on his fireplace mantel: “You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you” **Deut 15:15**

- **keep it**

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” **2 Tim 3:14-15**

- **repent**

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ ³⁸ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ’” **Acts 3:37-38**

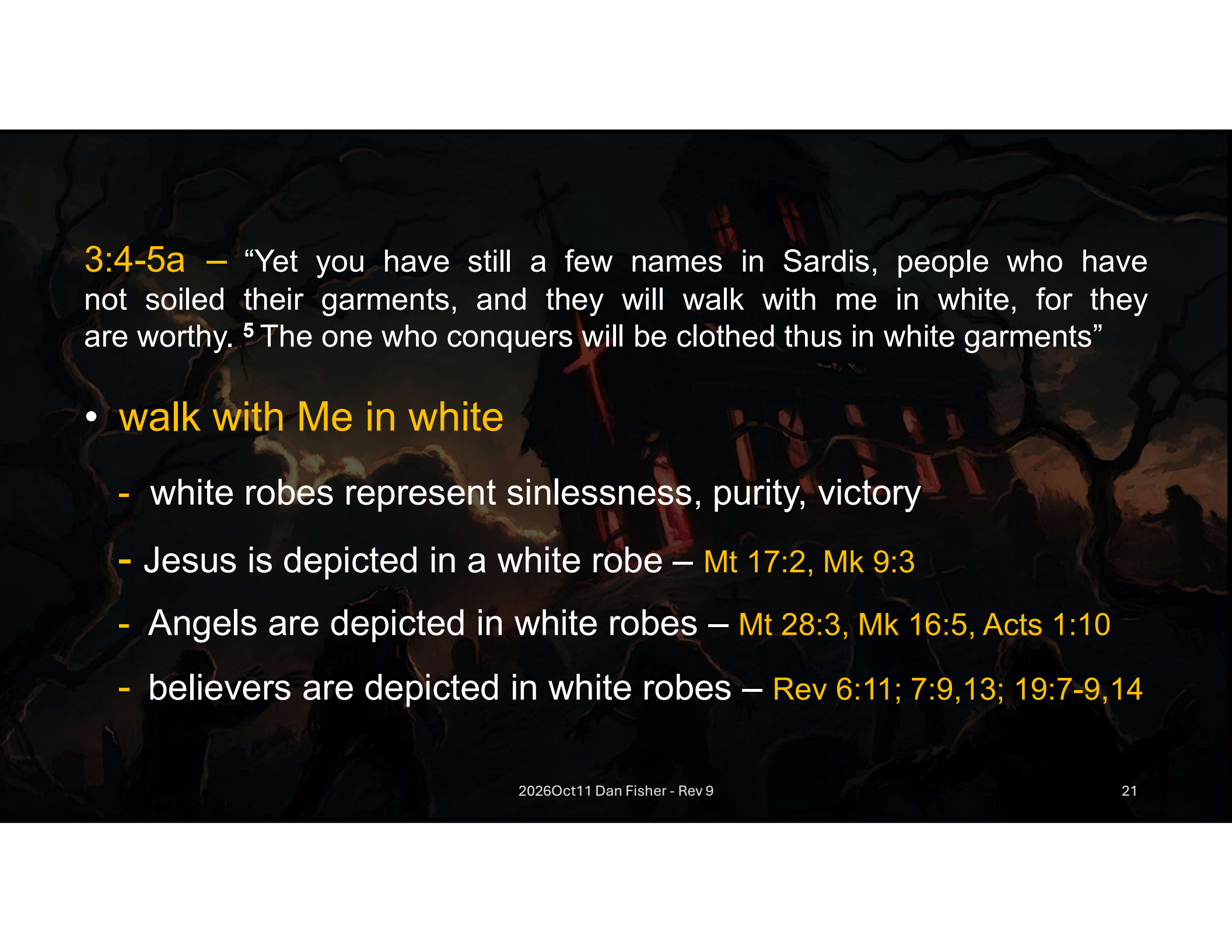
Rev 2:5; 2:16; 2:21; 3:3; 3:19

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- like a thief in the night

“The Lord will judge his people.’ ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Heb 10:30-31

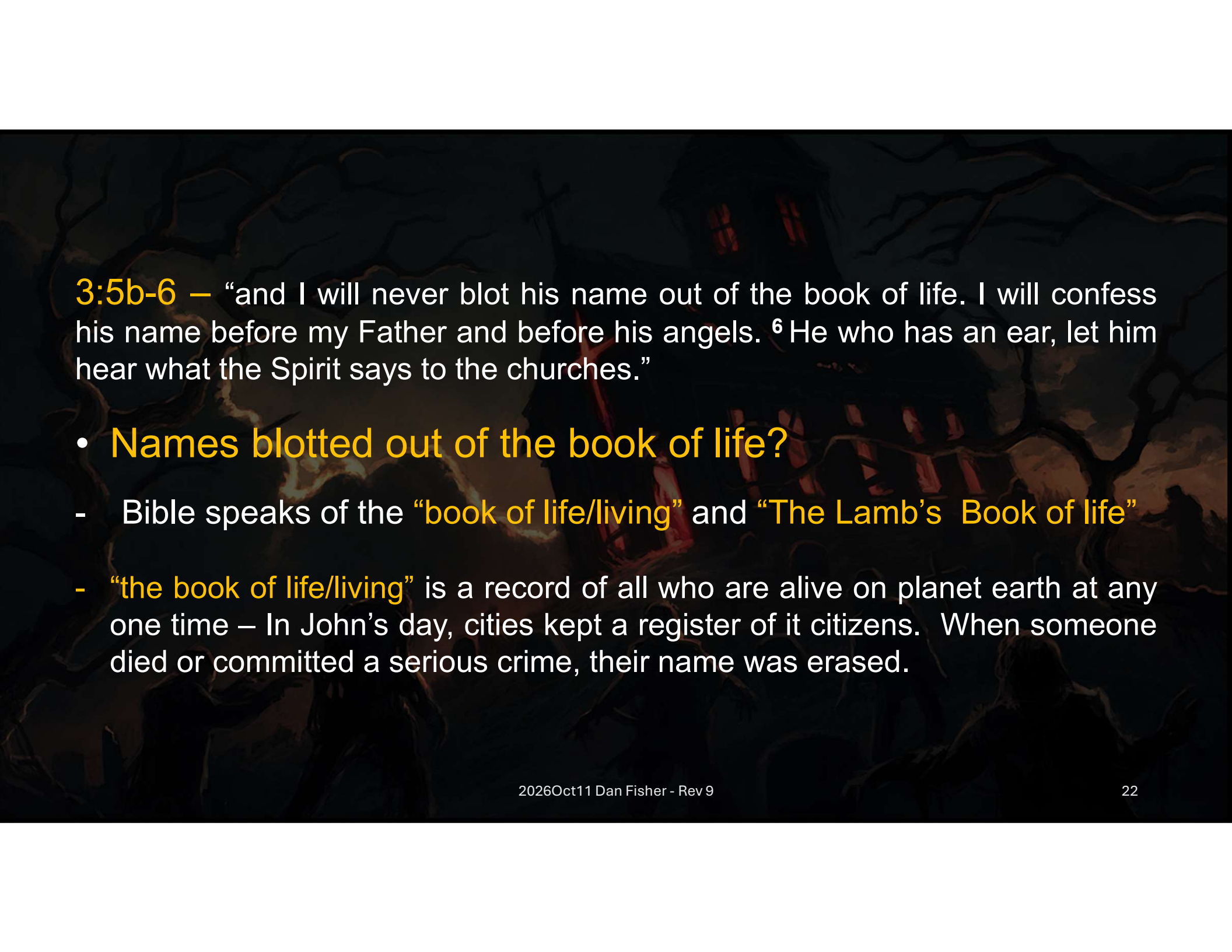
Mt 24:43; Lk 12:39; 1 Thess 5:2,4; 2 Pet 3:10; Rev 16:15

“Dear Mom and Dad. We’re terribly sorry. We knocked over the vase and broke it. We have put ourselves to bed without any supper.”



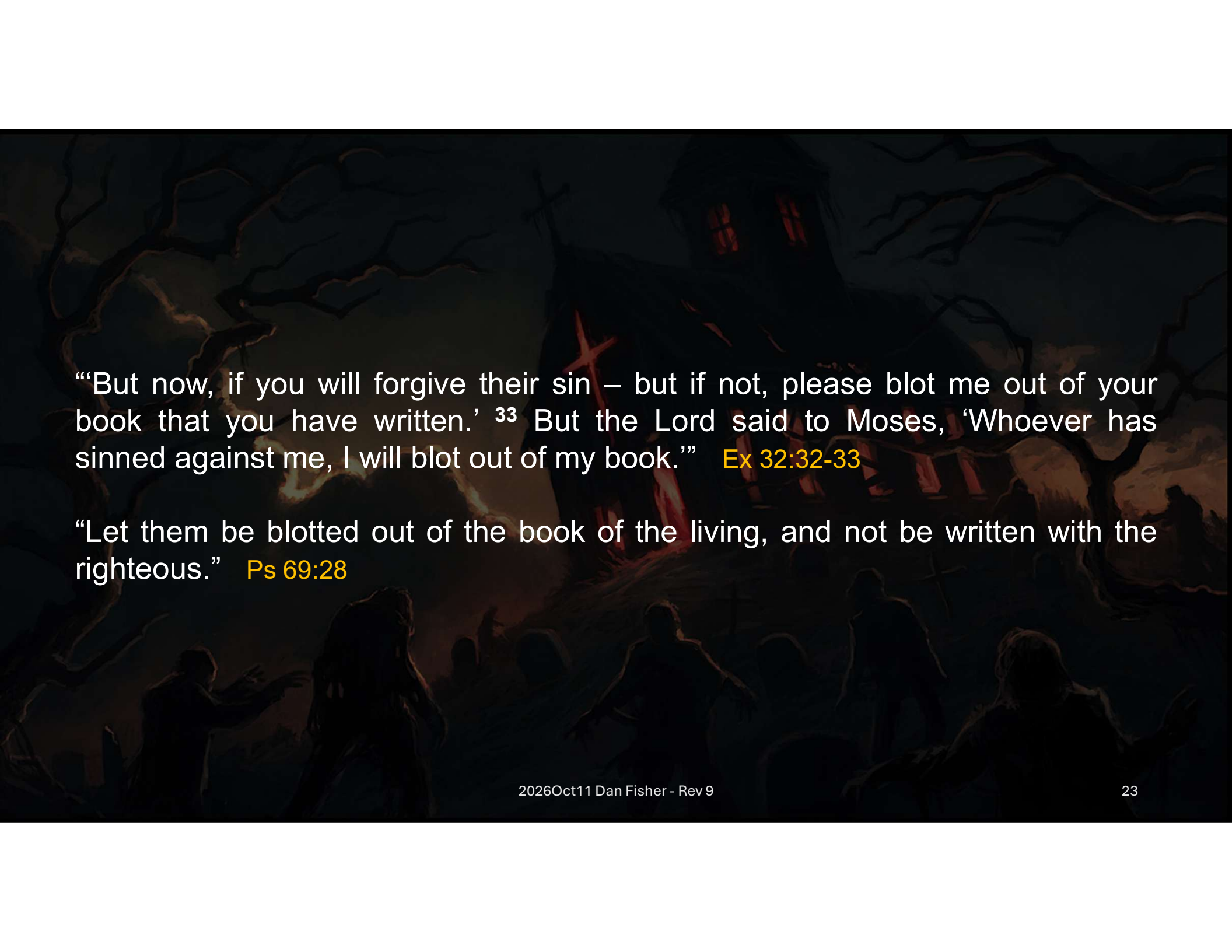
3:4-5a — “Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments”

- **walk with Me in white**
 - white robes represent sinlessness, purity, victory
 - Jesus is depicted in a white robe — **Mt 17:2, Mk 9:3**
 - Angels are depicted in white robes — **Mt 28:3, Mk 16:5, Acts 1:10**
 - believers are depicted in white robes — **Rev 6:11; 7:9,13; 19:7-9,14**



3:5b-6 — “and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

- **Names blotted out of the book of life?**
- Bible speaks of the “**book of life/living**” and “**The Lamb’s Book of life**”
- “**the book of life/living**” is a record of all who are alive on planet earth at any one time – In John’s day, cities kept a register of its citizens. When someone died or committed a serious crime, their name was erased.



“But now, if you will forgive their sin – but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.’ ³³ But the Lord said to Moses, ‘Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.’” Ex 32:32-33

“Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.” Ps 69:28

- “The Lamb’s Book of Life” is the record of all who are redeemed whose names can never be blotted out

Phil 4:3, Rev 13:8; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27

“and I will **never** blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.” Rev 3:5b

Nothing can separate a believer from the Love of God in Christ Jesus – Rom 8:28-39

“And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” Rev 20:15

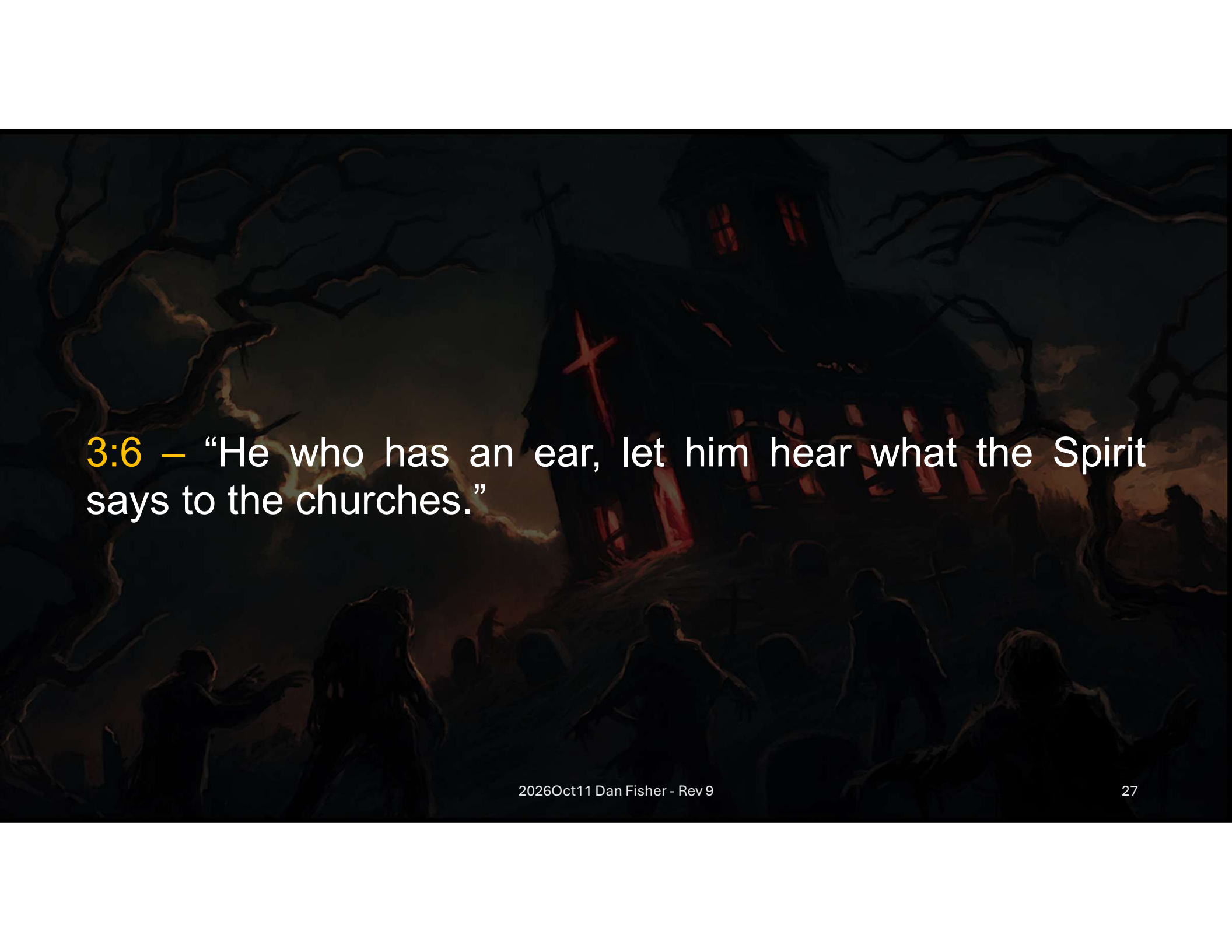
- I will confess him before My Father

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Mt 10:32-33



On Oct 31, 1517

Martin Luther nailed his “95 Thesis”
to the door of Castle Church in
Wittenburg, Germany, thus sparking
the Protestant Reformation

A dark, atmospheric illustration of a church at night. The church has a prominent cross on its roof and glowing windows. In the foreground, several silhouetted figures are visible, some with their arms raised in prayer or worship. The scene is set against a dark, cloudy sky with some light filtering through the trees.

3:6 — “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”