

WCBC WORSHIP SERVICE - OCTOBER 15, 2017

TOPIC: THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

Sermon 5: "Sardis: The Dying Church!"

TEXT: Revelation 3:1-6

INTRO: The City Of Sardis!

I. REASON WHY THE CHURCH OF SARDIS IS DEAD:

v.1

Note: The Scripture is unclear as to the cause of its demise. A probable reason for it could be that:

1. *They were never truly saved in the first place! - cf. Colossians 2:13

How Do We Know That They Were Not Truly Saved?

- A. They were not **COMMENDED** for their faith, unlike the four previous churches, but rather, **CONDEMNED!** - Rev. 3:1b
- B. They practiced the cult of _____ Worship!
- C. They engaged in paganism!

II. THE COMMAND TO THE CHURCH OF SARDIS TO BE ALIVE: vv.2-3

1. "Wake up!" - v.2a
 - Hands-on Personal Evangelism!
 - A. Get **SAVED!** - cf. Ephesians 2:1
 - B. "Strengthen!" - v.2a
2. "_____!" - v.3a
 - A. "What you have received and heard" - cf. Phil. 4:9a cf. I Cor. 11:1
 - B. "_____ it" - cf. Phil. 4:9a
 - C. "Repent!"

III. THE REWARD OF THE CHURCH OF SARDIS FOR BEING ALIVE: vv.4-5

Note: Verse 4 indicates that there were a few of the churchgoers in the Sardis Church who were truly saved!

- John MacArthur
 1. They are _____ an eternal home in Heaven - v.4 cf. Rev. 7:9-14

2. Their names will be forever etched in God's divine ledger - v.5b cf. 20:15

CONCLUSION: WCBC family - "wake up" and "remember!"

Ten Signs Of A Dying Church!

1. **Prayer, if offered at all, is a formality, an afterthought, a burden.** - There is no more accurate indicator of a Christian's spirituality or a church's health than the vitality of our prayer life.
2. **Giving stems from duty and is never a joy.** - "God loves a hilarious giver," we're told in II Cor. 9:7.
3. **Laughter is rare, and when present at all, forced and quickly stifled.** - Psalm 16:11
4. **When church ends, everyone scatters.** - The service had been over a full half-hour, but still people hang around, visiting with one another - cf. John 13:34-35
5. **When a leader calls for volunteers, he gets a few responses.** - cf. Judges 5:2
6. **When conflict arises, leaders ignore it, push the panic button, or jump ship.** - A healthy church will often have growing pains, will regularly be attacked by the enemy, and will always have to be ready to deal with problems from inside and out - Acts 20:29-30
7. **Even the leaders have a poor understanding of Scripture.** - cf. II Timothy 2:15
8. **Jesus is rarely mentioned. It's all about "God."** - cf. Colossians 2:9
9. **No one hears about salvation, no one gets saved, the baptistry is dry.** - cf. John 15:16
10. **Neither the members nor the leaders are willing to pay the price to make the church healthy.** - Dr. J. McKeever

Verse For Today

"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land!" - II Chron. 7:14

Food For Thought

"A certain congregation had dwindled in size so much that when the minister said, "Dearly Beloved," the maiden lady in the front row thought he was proposing! - *Speaker's Sourcebook*

