

THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

SCRIPTURE: REVELATION 3:1-6

INTRODUCTION

GOD QUICKLY RENDERS AN INDICTMENT AGAINST THE CHURCH AT SARDIS. IT HAD BEEN BORN IN THE FIRES OF REVIVAL AND REPENTANCE, BUT THE FIRES WERE NOW ONLY A FEW SCATTERED, DYING EMBERS. THIS CHURCH RECEIVES NO COMMENDATION, ONLY AN EXHORTATION TO "STRENGTHEN THE THINGS THAT REMAIN."

SATAN HAD VICTIMIZED THIS CHURCH BY ALLOWING IT TO MAINTAIN THE ILLUSION OF BEING ALIVE WHEN IN REALITY IT WAS DEAD.

I. IT WAS A CHURCH WITH A REPUTATION FOR VITAL SPIRITUAL LIFE

REVELATION 3:1A ...THOU HAST A NAME THAT THOU LIVEST....

- A. IT HAD SEEN THE SALVATION OF MANY SINNERS
- B. IT HAD WITNESSED OUTPOURINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- C. IT WAS NO STRANGER TO THE MIRACULOUS
- D. IT HAD MANIFESTED THE CHRISTIAN GRACES

II. ITS MANIFESTATION OF VITAL SPIRITUAL LIFE WAS A CHARADE

REVELATION 3:1B ...AND ART DEAD....

- A. GOD COULD NOT RECOGNIZE ITS RITUAL AS LIFE
- B. IT HAD CEASED TO COMMUNICATE WITH ITS ENVIRONMENT
 1. NO SPIRITUAL WORSHIP
 2. LACKING IN PRAISE
 3. UNFAITHFUL IN PRAYER
 4. UNCOMMITTED IN THE STUDY OF THE WORD
- C. GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED BY LACK OF COMMITMENT

III. THE EXHORTATION TO THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

REVELATION 3:2 BE WATCHFUL, AND STRENGTHEN THE THINGS WHICH REMAIN, THAT ARE READY TO DIE: FOR I HAVE NOT FOUND THY WORKS PERFECT BEFORE GOD.

- A. STRENGTHEN THE VITAL SIGNS
 1. TEND TO THE REMAINING SIGNS OF LIFE
 2. MAKE EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE
- B. DO WHAT YOU KNOW BRINGS REVIVAL

JAMES 4:17 THEREFORE TO HIM THAT KNOWETH TO DO GOOD, AND DOETH IT NOT, TO HIM IT IS SIN.

IV. THE PROMISE TO THE REMAINING FAITHFUL

REVELATION 3:4 THOU HAST A FEW NAMES EVEN IN SARDIS WHICH HAVE NOT DEFILED THEIR GARMENTS, AND THEY SHALL WALK WITH ME IN WHITE: FOR THEY ARE WORTHY.

- A. THINGS WHICH DEFILE OUR GARMENTS
 1. DAMAGING OTHERS BY OUR LACK OF COMMITMENT
 2. LIVING A DUAL LIFE
 3. BEING INCONSISTENT WITH OUR TESTIMONY
- B. GOD IS NOTING OUR FAITHFULNESS
- C. THE PROMISE TO THE FAITHFUL

REVELATION 3:5 HE THAT OVER-COMETH, THE SAME SHALL BE CLOTHED IN WHITE RAIMENT, AND I WILL NOT BLOT HIS NAME OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE, BUT I WILL CONFESS HIS NAME BEFORE MY FATHER, AND BEFORE HIS ANGELS.