

LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

Part 5 - Sardis



www.adamantbeliever.com/letters5.pdf

©2017 G. Craig Works All Rights Reserved

Rev. 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Rev. 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.

Rev. 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Rev. 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 church perishes when conviction departs. When the sermons from the pastor no longer convict you or make you want to change, then it's just mere entertainment and toleration! *2Tim. 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*
- When you can practice sin and selfishness without conviction from the pastor's sermons, then the church you are attending is dead, like Sardis. *1Tim. 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*
- There were only a few people in this church that were living right and worthy to walk with the Lord. Christ singled them out because they had not compromised their beliefs. *Gal. 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*



- So many pastors attempt to use politics, social issues, and even controversy to try to awaken what is dead. Nevertheless, only the truth can give life to a church. *Prov. 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*
- The dead church is dead because the life of Christ and the desire to live like Him is missing. People are there for money, prestige, and meeting their church quota. However, there is no life present because compromise has a stronghold on the congregants. *Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- Christ told the pastor of Sardis to wake up and salvage what remains. Jesus explained that the pastor needs to recognize the error of his ways and change what is not right! This action takes humility and fortitude, which is lacking among many modern day pastors. *2Chr. 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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.*



- When pastors submit to denominational leaders with ulterior motives and sinful alliances, then the church is governed by the same spirits. The church is dead by association because the devil has spiritually assassinated the denomination's leadership. *Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful*
- Most denominations today are just like Sardis. They are dead, but still talk about the power that used to be there. Christ says you should remember how it used to be, examine its current state, and repent! *Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;*
- Christ would not have addressed this church, if He didn't believe that there was still hope for it. Repentance and changes can resurrect a dead church, if a pastor is willing to obey Christ's commands. *Col. 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*



sum·ma·ry

'sʌməri/

It's sad when a church is more concerned about keeping the lights on and the employees paid than it is about obeying God and teaching uncompromising truth! God doesn't need us to operate buildings without His Spirit. Dead churches are a bad reflection on Him. Christ is the way, the truth, and the life! Because He is the head pastor or overseer of all of His churches, His churches should be like Him in every way. The church should teach the way of salvation and righteous living. This teaching must first be exemplified in the home of the leaders as examples for the body. The church should preach the truth no matter who it offends and how it convicts. Truth cannot be concealed for the sake of convenience, finances, or alliances. When the truth is hidden, the church will die.

The church should have the life that is in Christ. He had so much life in Him that when He died on the cross, His life caused dead saints to walk out of their tombs! He is life and churches that do things His way, will not be dead. A living church won't be full of members that only spectate. A living church won't be full of members just seeking to fulfill their churchgoing convictions. A living church doesn't have employees that only go there for a paycheck. When the life of Christ is in place, the church is alive! But, when the way of salvation is compromised and truth is hidden, then the church, like Sardis, is dead!

Rev. 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Rev. 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.
