

Series: You Got Mail

Title: To The Dead Church: Sardis

Text: (Rev 3:1-6)

Characterizes the Reformation Churches.

Middle Ages

1500-1750AD Formalistic Religion.

I. Jesus Characterizes Himself specifically to the Church of Sardis:

(Rev 3:1a) 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;

(Is 11:2) The 7 fold ministry of the Holy Spirit.
The Completeness of the gifts of the Spirit and
The universal indwelling presence among His Churches.

II. Jesus Condemns the Church of Sardis:

(Rev 3:1b) "I know thy works"

This is a busy church.

"that thou hast a name that thou livest,"

A great reputation in the community for activities.

They were the church to be apart of.

This was the church everybody knew about.

It's easy to get the wrong point of view when we compare ourselves to others.

(2 Cor 10:12) For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

"and art dead."

Things look very different from God's Point of view.
They had Good Music, singing, Preaching, Right Doctrine, but no life.

(1 Tim 5:6) But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

(Lk 15:24) For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found...

A Church can be Sound, But also Sound Asleep.

Nothing Supernatural happens anymore.

No one walks they Isle and is saved.

No one stirs the Baptismal Waters.

No homes are restored.

We need to become Miracle Prone.

If we leave church w/o a salvation or baptism, we should feel like we missed the mark.

We should take it personally & be asking ourselves why?

Did we invite anyone this week.

Did we share our faith with anyone this week?

Evangelism is no longer the heart beat of the church.

A Church can have Right Doctrine, but No

Evangelism.

That Church will die.

How does your life compare to Jesus?

It's easy to find a bigger sinner from our point of view.

How do we stack up from God's Point of View.

This Church died and Most of the Members were not even aware of it:

Cause they were still having Services.

Still having Potlucks & Fellowships.

School supply drives, Food Drives for the hungry?

They were living off their former glory.

Point: You can't live off your Mother's Faith.

They were still doing the outward activities that their parents did.

(Salvation)

God has no Grandchildren, only Children.

This church had a great history of Faith & Power.

Today, it this time, it is a shell of what it was.

(Separation)

The children have not followed i the parents example of Spirit filled, Separated, walk with God.

III. Jesus Councils the Church of Sardis:

(Rev 3:2-3a) Be watchful,

Lets go back and look at what God sets as a priority.

and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die:

Some of the things your doing are a positive witness, but are you are fixing to close them down because they are TOO OLD SCHOOL.

Nursery is the 2nd most important ministry in the church.

Our congregation is getting older, and no long wants to mess with children.

So our church is beginning to die.

for I have not found thy works perfect before God. "Perfect" ~ Complete, Mature, Etc.

3 Remember (Stir Up)

therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, (Stand Up For) ***and repent.*** (Give Up)

Take a minute and reflect on the Testimony of Your parents.

Why were they doing all this?
Was it just a tradition for them?
What motivated their sacrificial attitude & giving of themselves?

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.

When I take away the candlestick, will you even know that I am gone?

IV. Jesus Commends the Church of Sardis:

(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.

They will be in the Bride of Christ.

(Rev 19:7-8)

Being a Member on a church roll sheet is not sufficient.

God is looking for more than affiliation!
God wants Sanctification, Consecration, & Holy Living.

White Garments Represent Purity:

(Revelation 7:9-14; Isaiah 1:18)

We are not Worthy, but Christ makes us Worthy.

V. Jesus Challenges the Church of Sardis:

(Rev 3:5-6) He that overcometh,

Satisfied with just affiliation.

the same shall be clothed in white raiment;

You will be in the Bride!

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.

(Matt 10:32)(Mk 8:38)(Luke 12:8)

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