

Sardis – Revelation 3:1-6

The Dead Church

Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ Oct 23, 2022

Revelation 3:1-6 ESV

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. 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.’

REVELATION: ROME & THE SEVEN CHURCHES

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Introduction and Background

- I had a serious mind blow when I read this article posted by Christianitytoday.com entitled, "More than a third of senior pastors believe 'good people' can earn their way to Heaven"

At least a third of senior pastors in the United States believe one can earn a place in Heaven by simply being a good person, according to a nationwide survey.

The [findings](#) were among several surprising responses as part of a [survey](#) conducted earlier this year by the [Cultural Research Center](#) at Arizona Christian University.

The American Worldview Inventory 2022 examined more than three dozen beliefs held by pastors. Researchers found that in addition to believing that people can merit salvation based solely on their good works, one-third or more of senior pastors surveyed also believe the Holy Spirit is not a person but rather "a symbol of God's power." Others said that moral truth is subjective; sexual relations between two unmarried people who love each other is "morally acceptable" and biblical teaching on abortion is "ambiguous."

After data reported earlier this year [found](#) just 37% of Christian pastors have a biblical worldview, the latest CRC report analyzed that research across all major U.S. denominations, and found that a "loss of biblical belief is prevalent among pastors in all denominational groupings."

- although this is an American survey, I would guess that the Canadian landscape of the church is much, much worse because we as a nation, are more progressive and have less Christian influence
- the North American church appears to be alive, but judging by this survey it is dead
- when 1/3 of pastors do not understand salvation (they have embraced salvation by works) and they do not understand God (they do not see the Holy Spirit as a person) then these pastors are dead
- this might seem judgmental to some but we need to ask how can someone be a Christian when they flat out reject basic Christian doctrine

- this was the same _____ that was going on in the Sardis church
- they had an appearance of being alive but Jesus says they were _____
- they might have looked like they were _____ from outside appearances but when you looked at the _____ of what they were, they were dead and needed to repent

- we are seeing this in Canadian churches all the time, they might sing Christian hymns and read from the Bible but they do not _____ those hymns and do not believe the Bible
- _____ keep us from such a disaster!

- this address written to Sardis is not just a _____ to the churches who have seriously gone astray from Jesus Christ
- also this address directly _____ to the churches who are committed congregations to Jesus Christ
- this is a warning to the faithful church not to be _____ but to be entirely committed to Jesus Christ
- when Jesus comes will He find us _____ and strengthened in the Lord, or will the Lord find us _____?

- when Jesus addressed this church, _____ was no longer a prospering city
- it had been prosperous in the _____ with manufacturing and the production of gold coins, silver coins and jewelry
- but Sardis now was in serious _____
- this was a _____ city
- the _____ of Sardis was a very well secured metropolis that was protected by Mount Tmolus on all three sides
- but the city had been attacked several times in the past because they had let their _____ down and were sleeping
- Sardis also had a shrine to the _____ god Artemis who falsely promised that she would give life to the _____

- this address is very _____ to what the Lord says to the other 6 churches in Revelation

- we will break down the address to the Sardis church as follows:

1) (3:1a) Christ Described

2) (3:1b-3) Christ Confronts

3) (3:4) Christ Commends

4) (3:5-6) Christ Promises

1) (3:1a) Christ Described

(3:1a) "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write:

- like we have seen in the previous 4 churches, Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum and _____, each church has an _____, and this angel is the representative for the church

'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

- Jesus is described in two ways!

1) Jesus has the 7 _____

- the 7 spirits are mentioned in Revelation 1 as being before the throne of the Lord

Revelation 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the _____ spirits who are before his throne,

- the 7 spirits refers to the _____ Spirit

- now you might be wondering how the 7 spirits equals the Holy Spirit

- the phrase "seven spirits" refers to the complete and powerful work of the _____ Spirit because in the Bible the number 7 symbolizes fullness, completeness and _____

- the Holy Spirit _____ God and the _____ person of the Trinity

- I am always amazed at the number of people who have attended church their whole life and _____ the Trinity

- in the gospel of Matthew, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all _____ in power since the disciples are commanded to baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

- in Paul we see the work of the _____ in Salvation

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- hear the New City Catechism on its teaching on the Holy _____

Question # 36: What do we _____ about the Holy Spirit?

Answer: That He ____ God, coeternal with the Father and the Son and that God grants Him irrevocably to all who _____.

- Jesus is unified with the Holy Spirit and He sends the Holy Spirit to the _____
- since this church is described as _____, they certainly need Jesus to _____ the Holy Spirit

2) Jesus has the 7 stars

- the seven _____ symbolize the 7 _____ as in Revelation 1

Revelation 1:20 As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the _____ churches.

- Jesus has the 7 angels _____ the churches _____ His authority and these angels are sent as ministering spirits to _____ the churches

2) (3:1b-3) Christ Confronts

(3:1b) "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead."

- Jesus says again "I _____"
- Jesus knows because He is the all-knowing and sovereign _____
- do you remember what _____ says about Himself to the church at Thyatira?

Revelation 2:23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will _____ to each of you according to your works.

- Jesus _____ hearts and minds and He knows the works of the Sardis church
- this church had a reputation and that reputation was that they were _____ in Christ
- _____ since Jesus searches hearts and minds and we as humans cannot, Jesus sees things as they _____ are
- this church was _____ it means that they were not in the Lord, they had accommodated so much that their faith was no longer real _____ in the Lord
- a _____ church is not necessarily a church with slow music and a monotone preacher
- a dead church is a church that no longer _____ the gospel of Jesus Christ and is no longer _____ to the Lordship of Jesus Christ
- a dead church sees no need for the _____ of Jesus upon the cross to save sinners from God's punishment
- a dead church sees no need to _____ to Jesus Christ by submitting to the word of God
- a dead church looks at the culture and _____ what the culture is doing _____ of the authority of Jesus Christ

- because this church is considered dead by Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus gives this church 5

1) Wake Up

(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.

- the command to “_____ up” would have really gotten the attention of the church at Sardis
 - they would have known the history of the this city and how several times the city was attacked and taken over because the military personnel were _____
 - although this city had a mountain naturally guarding it on three sides the city let their _____ down and got sleepy
 - because they were sleepy, they did not have the military readiness to take on the _____
 - the same is true with the church in Sardis, they had become spiritually _____, or more than that, spiritually _____
 - they needed to “_____ up” or “be _____”
 - the phrase “wake up” is used by Jesus Christ to encourage Christians to be _____ in the Lord as they _____ for the 2nd His coming
 - for instance, Jesus ends the parable about the 10 virgins with this command to His disciples
- Matthew 25:13** Watch (Wake up) therefore, for you know neither the _____ nor the hour.
- when a Christian is “awake” they are _____ in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, they are anticipating the _____ of Christ and they are committed to Christ

2) Strengthen

- the _____ was to be strengthened in the person and work of Jesus Christ
- the word “strengthen” can also be translated “_____”
- this church is to be established or truly _____ to Jesus Christ and His authority
- Jesus makes the bold statement that their works are not _____ in the sight of God
- this church was _____ to follow Christ but they were truly following the _____
- in a lot of _____ the Canadian Christian church is just like the Sardis church
- people profess Christ with their mouth but by their actions and their _____ they clearly want nothing to do with Jesus Christ

3) Remember

(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.

- Jesus _____ this church to remember the gospel
- the gospel is what this church had heard and had _____

- this church had _____ that it was born by the gospel and existed because of the gospel of Jesus Christ

- this gospel of Jesus Christ is _____ throughout the book of Revelation

Revelation 5:9-10 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall _____ on the earth."

Revelation 5:12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the _____ who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

- what is the _____?

- Jesus Christ was slain and paid the punishment for sin upon the _____

- Jesus Christ _____ people – meaning that He delivers them from the bondage of sin

- Jesus Christ _____ all our sins and makes us into a people who can serve the Lord

- every human is sinful and born into sin but because of Christ He makes a people who receive Him by faith into a _____ creation

- unfortunately this message of God's _____ was no longer important to the Sardis church much like it is not very _____ to many churches across this country

- Jesus Calls this church, and every church, to _____ the good news of Jesus Christ

4) Keep it

- not only is this church to remember the gospel they are to _____ the gospel

- if you are keeping the gospel you are _____ attention to the gospel and how it applies to your life

- you _____ Jesus Christ and His work done for you

- if you are keeping the gospel you are _____ the gospel which means you no longer trust in what you have done, you _____ Jesus Christ alone

- because you are _____ Jesus Christ alone you follow Christ and _____ Him

- Jesus uses this word "_____" several times in the gospel of John to _____ about the Christian life

John 14:23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will _____ my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

5) Repent

- the church at Sardis is exhorted to _____

- they are to _____ their mind about their behavior

- the Sardis church has been _____ their own thing and probably you could not tell the difference between the citizens of Sardis and the _____ of Sardis

- they needed to be _____ful for their sin, they need to _____ from their sin and they needed to trust Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins

- But Jesus _____ this church

If you will not wake up, I will come like a _____, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

- if the Sardis church does not _____ up the Lord will come against this church like a thief in the night

- Jesus Christ not only exhorts this church but Jesus _____ this church that they must wake up

- otherwise, _____ is going to come like a thief in the night

- for those of you who have had stuff stolen out of your house or car, would you have liked to have known when the thief was coming so you could stop him?

- that is the thing about thieves, they always show up when you are not expecting them

- this is the same with the Lord Jesus Christ, He will come when we least _____ it

- this is what Peter _____ in 2 Peter 3:10 and what Paul promises in 1 Thessalonians 5:2, about the coming of Christ

- they both say, "the day of the Lord will come like a _____ "

3) (3:4) Christ Commends

(3:4) 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.

- although the church is dead, there are a few people in Sardis who have not _____ their garments

- the soiled garments indicate lives that were once lived for the _____ but are now polluted by the dis_____ to the gospel

- there are a few left in Sardis whose garments are _____, they have not been soiled because they live _____ lives and remain true to the gospel

- the church by and large is dead but there are a few _____ who were serving the Lord Jesus Christ

4) (3:5-6) Christ Promises

(3:5) 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.

- Christ gives three wonderful _____ to those who conquer or those who are victorious

1) They will be clothed in _____ garments

- Jesus will _____ His people in white garments

- this means that they have been _____ pure and blameless by Christ

- this means that they have been _____ by the blood of the Lamb
- this means that they are clothed with the righteousness of _____
- we even hear about this _____ of soiled clothing for white garments in the book of Zechariah

Zechariah 3:1-4 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ² And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" ³ Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. ⁴ And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity _____ from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments."

- Joshua has _____ clothes because of the grace of God, these Christians in Sardis are also cleansed by the _____ of God through Jesus Christ

2) Their names will **not** be blotted out of the _____ of life

- if your _____ is in the book of life it means that you have _____ life
- if you cannot be blotted out from the book of life it means that Jesus Christ preserves you and _____ you by His grace
- you will experience eternal life with God _____
- the _____ found in Revelation 21-22 are yours!

3) Jesus will _____ their names before the Father

- Jesus is saying that they will be rewarded with the _____ of heaven
- because of Christ and His _____ we can have the hope of eternal life

(3:6) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

- we hear again that we are to _____ what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church
- the word of God demands our attention and we must listen!
- do you have an ear to _____ what God is saying to you through Revelation 3:1-6?

Application

1) The Beauty of Jesus Christ

- in every church cited in Revelation, Christ is presented as _____
- in Revelation 3:1, Jesus has the _____ spirits, or Jesus has God the Holy Spirit and gives the Holy Spirit to the _____
- in Revelation 3:1, Jesus knows that this church is _____ at all, but is dead because Jesus is the all-knowing God

- in Revelation 3:3, Jesus is _____ and will hold this church to _____, Jesus will come like a _____
- in Revelation 3:6, we see the great graciousness of the Lord Jesus Christ because Jesus _____ His people with white garments, (they have their sins washed away and they have been _____ pure)
- Jesus will not _____ out the names of His people from the _____ of life which means that their hope of heaven is secure
- Jesus will _____ the names of His people before the Father which means that Jesus will _____ His people with eternal life
- in Revelation 3:1-6, we see the _____ness and the beauty of Christ again
- _____ is sovereign, He will come like a thief in the night and reward people for what they have done
- Jesus is _____ and will reward His people with eternal life and _____ of sins
- 4 times Jesus is described as a _____ who was slain in Revelation (5:6, 9, 12; 13:8)
- this confirms that Jesus is gracious and is able to _____ our soiled garments caused by our sin into white garments
- if you are outside of Jesus Christ, you have _____ garments, you are just like Joshua the high priest in Zechariah 3
- you need to have your life cleansed and _____ by Christ
- believe in Jesus Christ, _____ – turn from your sins and keep the gospel
- if you are in Christ, _____ the Lord!
- Jesus was _____ and took the punishment of sin so those who _____ His grace can be free from sin's consequences, like death and alienation from God

2) Let us Be a Living Church for Jesus Christ

- if we are a _____ church and not a living church that means that we are _____ the church
 - the Sardis church was _____ because they had _____ the gospel and were no longer living in obedience to the Lord
 - let us never _____ the gospel of Jesus Christ
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4** For I delivered to you as of _____ importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,
- let us not be seduced by the _____ pleasures of sin because sin leads to death

- if we have been seduced by the worldly pleasures of sin, let us _____ up, be strengthened in the Lord, _____ the gospel, keep the gospel and repent

- but let us remember the wonderful _____ of Christ found here in this passage

- in Christ we can have _____ garments, our names _____ in heaven and He will confess our named to the Father and greatly reward us!

Coming UP - updated

Oct 16 Revelation 2:18-29 - Thyatira

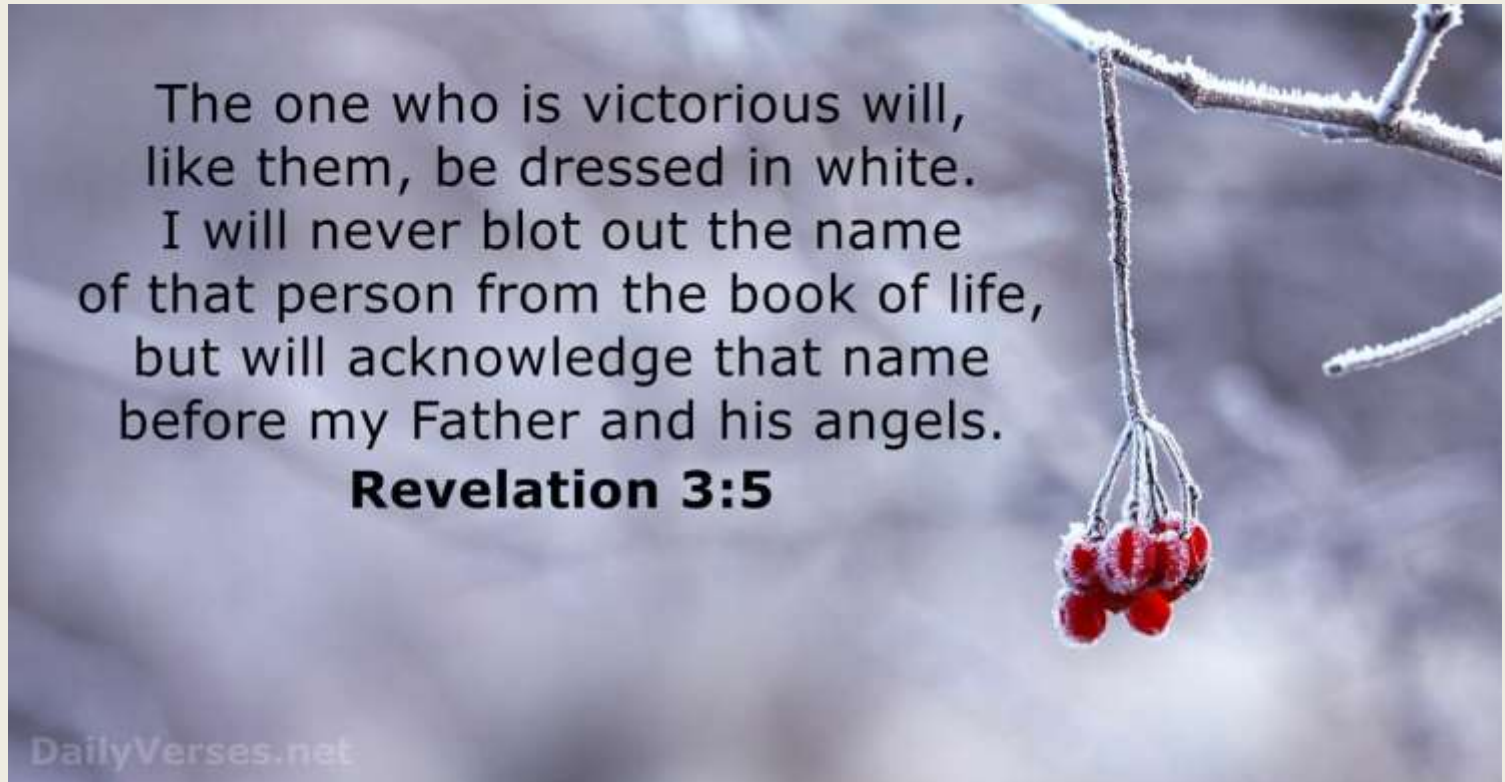
Oct 23 Revelation 3:1-6 - Sardis

Oct 30 Speaker – Gordon Robinson

Nov 6 Revelation 3:7-13 - Philadelphia

Nov 13 Revelation 3:14-22 – Laodicea

- Remembrance Day



The one who is victorious will,
like them, be dressed in white.
I will never blot out the name
of that person from the book of life,
but will acknowledge that name
before my Father and his angels.

Revelation 3:5