

WHAT JESUS LOOKS FOR IN A CHURCH (Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2-3)

The Church in Sardis (Revelation 3: 1-6)

The Church of the Living Dead

The Rebuke Christ Pronounces

And to the angel of the church of Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, says this, I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

Revelation 3: 1

...for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of God. Revelation 3:2b

FIVE SIGNS OF A DYING CHURCH

1. The church worships its PAST HISTORY.
2. Maintaining TRADITIONS to the point where a church is inflexible and resistant to CHANGE.
3. Greater focus on achieving SUCCESS than acquiring HOLINESS.
4. Personal gratification overshadows God's glory, evidenced in the loss of EVANGELISTIC fervor.
5. Preaching EASY BELIEVISM or when Christianity is handed down instead of being a life-changing PERSONALENCOUNTER WITH GOD.

The Remedy Christ Prescribes

Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die.....

Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent.

Revelation 3: 2a & 3a

FIVE STEPS TO REVIVE A DYING CHURCH

1. WAKE UP...
2. STRENGTHEN the things that remain...
3. REMEMBER what you have received & heard...
4. KEEP IT...
5. REPENT!

The Ruin Christ Predicts

EPHESUS

Repent...or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place...

Revelation 2: 5

PERGAMUM

Repent or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

Revelation 2: 16

THYATIRA

Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

Revelation 2: 22

SARDIS

If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.

Revelation 3: 3b

- The choice is clear: REPENT or RUIN

The Remnant Christ Praises

But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy.

Revelation 3: 4

- A dynamic minority of awakened and responsible Christians is able by prayer, love, and witness both to preserve a dying church from extinction and to fan its flame into a fire.

John Stott

The Reward Christ Promises (Revelation 3: 5)

He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in WHITE GARMENTS...

...and I will not erase his name from the BOOK OF LIFE...

...and I will CONFESS HIS NAME before My Father, and before His angels.

Imagine not one sleeping Christian left, not one backslidden believer remaining, but all alike devout and intent on seeing the will of Jesus Christ accomplished. To this startling picture, add that same power of the Holy Spirit that transformed bumbling Peter into a Pentecost preacher. Unleash all this transforming power against the forces of sin and evil in your community. That is what revival is.

Richard Owen Roberts

