

The 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, July 29, 2018

“Letters to the 7 Churches ~ Sardis”

Revelation 3:1-6



JESUS' DESCRIPTION

“And to the Angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars...” (Revelation 3:1)

Jesus describes Himself here as holding 2 things.

#1. The 7 \_\_\_\_\_.

• This speaks of the 7-fold \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit  
“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:1-2)

• This speaks of the Holy Spirit in His 7-fold \_\_\_\_\_ =

#2. The 7 \_\_\_\_\_.

• This image serves to reinforces the fact that Jesus:

JESUS' COMPLIMENT & CRITICISM

“I know your works; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God...” (Revelation 3:1)

I know your works =

“You have a reputation of being alive...” =

“God does not see as humans see. Humans look at outward appearances, but the Lord looks into the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

Jesus' criticism =

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” (Matthew 23:27)

ergon =

death =

3 SIGNS THAT A CHURCH MIGHT BE DEAD OR DYING

#1. No \_\_\_\_\_.

“For I was hungry, and you did not feed me. I was thirsty, and you did not give me a drink. I was a stranger, and you did not invite me into your home. I was naked, and you did not give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you did not visit me.” (Matthew 25:42)

#2. No \_\_\_\_\_.

“Love each other with a warm love that comes from the heart. After all, you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth. As a result you have a sincere love for each other.” (1 Peter 1:22)

#3. No \_\_\_\_\_.

“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught...” (Colossians 2:7)

JESUS' 5-FOLD COMMAND

“Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God. Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don't wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.” (Revelation 3:2-3)

#1. \_\_\_\_\_.

gregoreo =

“Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!” (Matthew 26:41)

“For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.” (1 Thessalonians 5:5-6)

#2. \_\_\_\_\_.  
*sterizo* =

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6)

#3. \_\_\_\_\_.  
*mnemoneuo* =

“...remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near by the blood of Christ.**” (Ephesians 2:12-13)

#4. \_\_\_\_\_.  
*tereo* =

“The surest evidence of our love for Christ is obedience to the Laws of Christ. Love is the root, obedience is the fruit.” (Matthew Henry)

“If you love me, you will obey my commandments.” (John 14:15)

#5. \_\_\_\_\_.  
*metanoeo* =

**repentance** =

“Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. And receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

### JESUS 4-FOLD PROMISE

“All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.” (Revelation 3:5)

**Walk with Christ** =

**White clothes** =

**The Book of Life** =

**Acknowledged before God and the angles** =



### THE SARDIS SPIRIT CHURCH CHECK LIST

**“The Sardis spirit can overtake us whenever we begin to take God’s gifts for granted. How quickly we can become the church of the living dead and not even know it!” (Michael Deutsch)**

**We need to check our spiritual pulse—is it beating strongly or nearly gone?  
Have we succumbed to the Sardis spirit?  
Are we alive or dead?**

- Living churches are constantly changing. Dead churches don’t want to change.
- Living churches are constantly improving for the future. Dead churches are lost in the glory days.
- Living churches move out in faith. Dead churches operate totally by human sight.
- Living churches exist to glorify God. Dead churches exist to glorify self.
- Living churches are all about relationship. Dead churches are all about rules, rituals, and religion.
- Living churches focus on people. Dead churches focus on programs.
- Living churches dream great dreams of God. Dead churches only dream of the past.
- Living churches strategize about reaching the lost. Dead churches focus on themselves.
- Living churches evangelise. Dead churches fossilize.

**How did you do?  
Do you need to wake up?  
Do you need to come alive in Jesus?**