

The Seven Churches of the Revelation Sardis

Pastor Craig Sweeney / June 5, 2022

Series Thread: “The revelation of Jesus” unravels the knots in my mind and heart.

Message Thread: This life requires engagement with the Spirit of God.

“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.’ Revelation 3:1 ESV

- Sardis
- The 7-fold Spirit of God.
- Leaders need to be reminded that God desires and empowers for significant things.

“I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.” Revelation 3:1 – 2 ESV

- You’re still in My hands.
- Your reputation is not who you actually are.
 - “They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.” 2 Timothy 3:5 ESV
- Paradox: Looks great on the outside, but truly dead on the inside.
 - **Jesus** - “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. ²⁸Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.” Matthew 23:27 – 28 ESV
 - **James** - “Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.” James 2:26 ESV

Faith that is dead

- Pharisee - doing the Jesus thing for the wrong reason.
- Disconnected from the Holy Spirit trying to work in me.
- Disconnected from the Holy Spirit trying to work through me.
- Inactive, sitting down when I have been called to the field.
- Unhealthy

Faith that is alive

- My heart to follow Jesus inspires my actions.
- Directly connected to the leading of the Holy Spirit in me.
- Directly connected to the leading of the Holy Spirit through me.
- Active and eager when I am called to the field.
- Healthy

You are on the edge of dead

- Am I going to live or am I going to let myself die?

“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. ⁴Yet 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. ⁵The 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. ⁶He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 3:3 - 6 ESV

- “Bearing with” = Encourages and helps someone reach for the standard.
 - “Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” Colossians 3:13 ESV
- Healing in the Church - It’s in our hands to HELP people get to the GREATER MOMENT.
 - Offering God’s STANDARD of truth, mercy and grace.
 - Humility
 - Jesus’ church is meant to be part of the healing.
 - Reaching for the STANDARD of God’s healing and mending.
 - Forgiveness
 - Building of trust where it has been broken.

Challenge:

- What have the words of Jesus exposed?
- What part of the healing are you being challenged by?
- How does the revelation of Jesus challenge your faith for the season you’re in?
- How does the revelation of Jesus enable you to remain faithful?



**DEVOTIONALS
& MESSAGE
RESOURCES**