

“The Church at Sardis”

Rev. 3:1-6

Introduction

- I. The church at Sardis is the fifth congregation listed amongst the seven churches of Asia mentioned in the book of Revelation.
- II. The city of Sardis was well known for its military, location along a trade route, fertile ground, wealth, dyed wool, and carpets.
- III. What can we learn from Jesus' words to the congregation in Sardis?

Discussion

- I. The church at Sardis existed, but was dead (Rev. 3:1).
 - A. It is good to have a reputation when it is a good reputation (Prov. 22:1).
 - B. The reputation of Sardis based on what could be seen (John 7:24).
 - C. The congregation was spiritually dead (cf. 1 Tim. 5:6 and Luke 15:24).
 - D. We must continue faithfully every day so that we do not die spiritually (Rev. 21:8).
- II. The church at Sardis was supposed to be on watch (describe the attack of the Persians; Rev. 3:2).
 - A. All Christians should be “watchful” (1 Pet. 5:8-9; 1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Thess. 5:6; Matt. 24:42).
 - B. We should remember that many thieves come when we are not watching (Rev. 16:15).
- III. The church at Sardis was supposed to strengthen what remained (Rev. 3:2).
 - A. Christians get their strength from the Lord (Phil. 4:13).
 - B. When we see brethren who are weak, we should do what we can to help them to be strong (Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20).
- IV. The church at Sardis was to remember what they had received, “hold fast, and repent” (Rev. 3:3)
 - A. They had already been warned about being on watch (cf. 1 Thess. 5:2).
 - B. They had “received” the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4; 1 Thess. 2:13).
 - C. Repentance was required (Acts 17:30; 2 Pet. 3:9).
- V. The church at Sardis still had a ray of hope (Rev. 3:4-6).
 - A. There were some there that were still pure and holy.
 1. White garments (Rev. 19:8; Matt. 22:11-13).
 2. Heb. 12:14; 1 John 3:3
 - B. Those that were “worthy” and “overcame” would have their names in the book of life and their names confessed before the Father (Phil. 4:3; Rev. 21:27; Matt. 10:32-33).

Conclusion

- I. How do we compare to the church at Sardis?
- II. If we find that there are needs for improvement, then we should do what is necessary to correct such.