

Sermon: The Church of Sardis

Text: Revelation 3:1-6 ESV

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Introduction: Sardis was no longer a major city. Its importance and significance had waned. The town was now mostly interested in wealth and recreation. The church was involved with the community. It was relevant to the community, but only in a secular way. Sardis had lost its Christ-likeness and uniqueness. There was a country club mentality in the Church. Society imposed its patterns of behavior upon the church instead of vice versa.

I. A _____ of the Author of the Letter (3:1a)

- A. Jesus Has the Seven _____ of God.
- B. Jesus Has the Seven _____.

II. The Initial _____ (3:1b)

- A. God _____ What the Church Is Doing.
- B. The Church's Reputation Is Not _____.

III. There Is a _____ (3:2-3ab).

- A. _____ and Get to Work.
- B. _____ the Past.
- C. Recover What You Received and _____.

IV. There Is a _____ (3:3c).

- A. The Lord's Coming Is Like a _____.
- B. The Lord's Coming Is _____.

V. The Entire Church Is Not _____ (3:4).

- A. Some Have _____ Garments.
- B. They Will _____ Worthily with God.

VI. God's Promised _____ (3:5-6)

- A. There Is Victory for the _____.
- B. Jesus Will Be Our _____.
- C. Salvation Is for All Who _____ to God.

Conclusion: Barclay, p. 149 - "A truly vital Church will always be under attack. A really live Church will necessarily be the conscience of the community, and because of that there will be many who will wish to silence it, and to eliminate it." Luke 6:26 ESV 26 "Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets. "The Church and the world remain over against each other. And a Church which has so accommodated itself to the world that the world finds no fault in it is a dead Church."

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To the Church in Sardis

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.'