

Theme	The Ready Bride of Christ
Topic	The Church in Sardis
Speaker	SP Daniel Foo
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Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: Growing in Works of Faith Through Dependence on God

The city of Sardis was commercially prosperous and was militarily strategic. It was thus thought to be impregnable and undefeatable. While the Sardians lived luxurious lives as the economy flourished, this led to moral decadence and complacency. Interestingly, Sardis also housed a large cemetery (Necropolis) and was termed “the city of the dead”. This seems to parallel the complaint from God towards the city in the later verses.

Commendation of Their Faith

The Church in Sardis was not without merit though. God commended that a few “remnant” in the city were walking in holiness. God desires for us to be like the remnants, to be set apart and to walk in holiness. In layman’s term, that’s doing the opposite of what is commonly done. SP further explained that, to be holy, we need first to be in the presence of God and second we need to live in purity. To be in God’s presence, we need to have a relationship and be connected to God. Believers can come into the House of God but fail to meet the God of the House. Likewise, we can go for Bible study sessions but fail to experience the reality of the word and ultimately, we can serve and yet not have a relationship with God. To live in purity, believers need to love the things God loves and hate the things which He hates. (Hebrews 1:9)

The Complaint

The Church of Sardis was known for its works. Despite this, they were considered spiritually dead. Their works, while seemingly good, were done without dependence on the Holy Spirit and were done without faith. Thus, in the eyes of God, their works are spiritually dead and were merely done to be seen and approved by men. SP warns us not to fall into this trap. Instead, we need to depend on God through prayer and we need to exercise our faith in order to grow it. God desires works of faith, not dead works.

The Counsel

God gives five counsels to bring life back into the church:

1. Be watchful
2. Strengthen the things which remain
3. Remember what they have first received and heard
4. Hold fast to what they have first received and heard
5. Repent

Crown

God mentions three certainties for the Overcomer in Sardis:

1. Clothed in white garments – white garments were worn by a few distinguished groups of people: the 24 elders in Rev 4:4; the martyrs during the tribulation period as well as the armies appearing with the Messiah.
2. Not blot out his name from the book of life – There are two groups of people who are in danger of having their names blotted out: those whose faith have been shipwrecked and those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit all the way to their last breath.
3. Jesus will confess His name before the Father God and the angels.

Conclusion

In Rev 3:1, it is mentioned that Jesus has the seven spirits of God and it is Jesus who breathes life into the local church (John 6:63). Without the Holy Spirit, the church is dead. The word of God is the source of spiritual life. The church of Sardis was dead as their works were done without dependence on the Holy Spirit and without faith. They were complacent and were losing sight of God's true destiny and purpose for them.

Questions

1) What makes a successful church?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2a) What is the difference between dead works and works of faith?

2b) Which of our works would we consider to be that of faith and/or dead works and why?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) How can we reprioritize our life in order to live out God's destiny and purpose?

(Fill In Answer Here)
