



CHRIST'S EVALUATION OF HIS CHURCH "Open-Heartedness in the Church" Revelation 3:1-6

No. 1493

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Sardis had a great reputation both commercially and militarily. Unfortunately, the city rested on its reputation, became careless and self-indulgent, and, on two occasions, was overthrown. The church at Sardis had a great reputation, too, but Christ looked behind the reputation to the reality and was less than impressed.

I. Reputation and Reality.

- A. Reputation from a human perspective.
 - 1. Reputation of being active—"Your works."
 - 2. Reputation of being alive—"Name."
 - a. Name of "Christ."
 - b. Name of "Church."
- B. Reality from the divine perspective.
 - 1. Physical activity disguised spiritual emptiness.
 - a. Man looks on outward...God on the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7
 - b. Man evaluates performance...God sees motive.
 - c. Man sees movement...God what is "fulfilled."
 - 2. Physical activity of the unbelievers. Ephesians 2:1
 - a. The deadness of the unbelievers. Ephesians 2:1
 - b. The deadness of the uncommitted. 1 Timothy 5:6; 2 Timothy 3:5
 - 3. Physical activity cloaked spiritual uncleanness.
 - a. The garments of forgiveness.
 - b. The stains of uncleanness.

II. Remembrance and Repentance.

- A. The onus is on the nucleus.
 - 1. A few names in Sardis.
 - 2. Not dead but in danger.
- B. The emphasis is on action.
 - 1. Awake—be aware of what is going on.
 - 2. Strengthen—be concerned about what is dying.
 - 3. Remember—"Go on remembering."
 - a. What you received—the seven spirits?
 - b. What you heard—the seven stars.
 - 4. Keep—maintain what you have.
 - 5. Repent—that things were allowed to slip.

III. Reassurance and Reward.

- Those who overcome will be:
- A. Counted worthy to walk in white.
 - Garment of:
 - 1. Victory. 2. Purity. 3. Festivity.
 - B. Confirmed in their eternal status.
 - 1. The status of those not entered. Revelation 20:11-15
 - 2. The assurance of those who overcome—note double negative.
 - C. Confessed by Christ to the Father.
 - 1. "Depart from me I never knew you" or—
 - 2. This is my brother/sister, welcome him/her, Father.