

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 7 Churches of Revelation – week 8



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member how they can restore their passion and zeal for the Lord Jesus?
2. What does Jesus tell the church in Revelation 3:1?
(I know your works. You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.)
3. What does Jesus tell the church to do in v.2?
(Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die...)
4. What does Jesus tell the church in v.3?
(Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent.)



Let's go deeper

5. What will happen to the church if they do not wake up in v.3b? (...I will come like a thief and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.)
6. Where there any faithful believers left in the church according to v.4?
(Yes, and they walk with Jesus in white, for they are worthy).
7. What does Jesus promise those who will conquer in v.5? **(They will be clothed in white garments, Jesus will never remove their names from the book of life, Jesus will confess their name before the Father and His angels.)**
8. What does Jesus tell the church in v.6?
(He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.)



Let's apply this

9. Revelation 3:1; 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 (from the outside) of being alive, but you are dead (a corpse).

Jesus speaks to this spiritually dead church and He says, this is unacceptable, this cannot continue, and this "deadness" needs to change.

- Are you still passionately in love with Jesus?
- Is there someone you know who is spiritually dead that you can encourage?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you this week, as you share God's life?

SUMMARY:

7 Churches of Revelation: Week 8 (The letter to the church at Sardis).

Read: Revelation 3:1 – 6

Background: Sardis is the modern day Sart in Turkey, it was a wealthy city known for the manufacture and dying of woollen fabric and carpets. It was the capital city of the ancient Lydian empire and was the first city in Asia to mint coinage (600 BC). The city was conquered twice, under Cyrus the great and under Antiochus.

v.1; Jesus has no encouragement for this church. Roman emperor Domitian, declared himself to be lord and god, and wanted to be worshiped as god. He minted a coin of himself, and on the coin, it was him with seven stars showing he was the ruler of the world and heavens. In v.1 Jesus says; Domitian is not lord or god; "I am Lord, God, and Savior. Domitian is not the one who rules over the stars, I am."

v.2; In v.1; Jesus tells the church that they are dead (a corpse), and now He tells them to wake up, because the Gospel is not bearing any fruit. People's lives are not changing, no water baptisms, no Holy Spirit baptisms, no devotion to Christ.

v.3; What did they receive and hear? They received the Good of news of Jesus, they received the Holy Spirit, a New Testament church was planted and the Kingdom of God advanced, but now the church is dead. **Who were some of the leaders?** John the disciple; Polycarp, Antipas all of them travelled around in the region. Jesus says I will come like a thief; according to a historian named Herodotus, a Persian soldier named Hyroeades, saw a Lydian soldier climbing down a specific wall to pick up his helmet that he dropped, and this Persian soldier followed the same route with other soldiers following and they entered the fortified walls and was able to conquer and defeat the Lydian soldiers, who were not watchful or awake.

v.4; Jesus says there are still a few faithful believers who have not soiled / defiled their garments with sin and rebellion and who are walking with Him. What does Jesus want this church to do? Faith and obedience to walk with Him.

v.5; "In ancient times cities kept a register of their citizens; and when a man died, his name was removed from the register. The risen Christ is saying that, if we wish to remain on the roll of the citizens of God, we must keep our faith alive." **(Barclay)**

v.6; Jesus says listen to the Holy Spirit. The way we keep our spiritual passion, and life is to listen and obey the Holy Spirit. **What is the Holy Spirit saying?** It is not how we look on the outside, but on the inside that matters. Remember the basics of our faith. Walk with Jesus continually, and we need the Holy Spirit.

Why do we exist as a church? To know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. (Matt.22:36 – 38; Matt.28:18 – 20).