

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTER 3:3-6

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU?” – PART 5B

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Jesus Christ, Prophecy, The Church, End Times

Revelation 3:1-6

*“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, “These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: ‘I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. :2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. :3 **Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. :4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. :5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but 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.”***

This is Letter Number “5” of Jesus’ Evaluation
of His Church in Earth

WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH ARE YOU?

I.) *When Jesus Christ is no longer the counselor? vv. 1a*

1st *I (we) will run the risk of complacency*
2nd *I (we) forget that Jesus Christ is the Proprietor*
3rd *The church will suffer as men struggle for power*

JESUS HAD TO PUT UP WITH THIS AMBITION,
AND HE HADN’T EVEN DIED YET...

Luke 9:44-48

44. **“Now, let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of sinful men.”** ...:46 Then an argument arose among disciples as to which of them would be greatest. :47 And Jesus, knowing the thoughts of their heart, took a little child and set the child next Jesus Himself :48 and said to them, **“Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great.”**

It's a Dead, Dying, Day

when a Church Loses Sight of Jesus Christ, And begins to maneuver, and scheme, and to manipulate like the World, and rather than a church being humbled by what God has and is doing... It begins to associate itself with the victories that have been gotten by God, and given to us!

And Men Become Pirates of the Church of Christ

WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH ARE YOU?

II.) *When the Spirit is no longer the source of power vv. 1b-2*

“There's Nothing I Can Do Here”

1st *The church begins its death run!*

AND INSTEAD OF MARCHING FORWARD, IT BECOMES INCUMBERED IN THE CARES OF THE WORLD

**WHEN THIS HAPPENS - - WE LOOK BACK AT EARLIER TIMES
IT HAD BECOME EASIER TO BOAST OF THE EARLY VICTORIES**

Verse 1

...‘I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead

“You Have a Reputation”

for Being the Most “Alive” Church in the City.

More Accurately Now is

You Once Had Life - But Now You're Dead

Jesus is Saying This;

**“What You're Doing Now as a Church is Worse,
than when you never believed in Me at all.”**

Who, in Their Right Mind, Would Want to Attend a Dead Church?

How do You Do That?

“I don’t want worship songs – unless their sung to me
“I don’t want to carry a Bible – it’s just an old book of stories
“I don’t want messages that make me think – just let me pew here
“I don’t want anyone to know me at church – I just want to slip in and slip out.

Mark 8:38

For whosoever you are that is ashamed of Me and My words, living in this adulterous and sinful generation, You the Son of God will be ashamed of when He returns in the glory of His Father – coming with His holy angels.”

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,

They Were “Called” Christians But they had *no Christ*.
They Went by the Name “Christian” But they had *no life*.

When the Spirit is no longer the church’s source for power

2nd The church begins to err v.2

*Be **watchful**, and **strengthen** the things which remain, (things) that are ready to die,*

When a Church Pays no Attention to the Holy Spirit,
The church will descend into error – it must, and it will

Be Watchful !!!

*Greek Be Watchful grhgoreu/w gregoreuo, gray-gor-yoo´o; from 1453;
to open your eyes and to be on guard, to watch, to be vigilant against an intruder.*

According to Jesus
A Church That’s Alive is a Church that is Watchful
for the Imminent Return of Jesus Christ

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.

Watching Against Satanic Attacks

*and **strengthen** the things which remain,*

Greek **strengthen** sthri-zw sterizo, stay-rid'-zo; presumed to make a turn in a new direction, or to set a broken bone back in place. To create an opportunity to heal or rehabilitate.

Psalm 138:7

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me;

When the Holy Spirit is no longer the power

3rd The church begins its final hours v.2

strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect (incomplete) before God

“Play-Roo-O”

Greek perfect 4137. plhro/w pleroo, play-roo'-o; IN THE NEGATIVE. a fisherman would pull his net in and say – “play-roo-o” meaning, the net only has a few fish in it. Shallow, lacking, not enough when there should have been much.

Matthew 21:18

Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. :19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, “Let no fruit grow on you ever again.” Immediately the fig tree withered away.

In Your Efforts to live your life for Me,

you never finished anything you started. And now because you’ve become accustomed to your “Christ-less Christianity” You won’t even attempt, let alone, do anything for me and my glory anymore!

Luke 6:46

“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. :22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? :23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you;

In Just 24 hrs., a Day is Gone – Never to be Retrieved

John 9:4

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day;
the night is coming when no one can work.

WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH ARE YOU?

III.) When the Church forgets it’s humble beginnings vv. 3

(1) Remember therefore how you have received and heard;

hold fast and repent. *Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.*

Hebrews 12:5

And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, :6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” :7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? :8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

Even to a dead and Dying Church,
Jesus is Reaching Out His Hand...

When the Church forgets its humble beginnings

1st Call to mind the things that God has done V.3

Remember therefore how you have received and heard; **hold fast and repent...**

- 1.) **Remember** therefore how you have received and heard;
- 2.) **hold fast** (to dig in – latch on – to grip)
- 3.) **and repent...** (metanoeo, to think straight and to think different.

Those of you who are new to Christ

Write (and date) things down and watch what happens
Attend as many “opportunities as possible”

Those of you who have been with Jesus

Keep writing and dating things down,
Attend as many “opportunities as possible”

When the Church forgets it’s humble beginnings

2nd It’s time to become vigilant again about what matters v.3

*...Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief,
and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.*

According to the Historical Accounts of the Fall of Sardis,
The night the city was captured – the soldiers were asleep

**A church that’s alive,
and a Christian who Understands Scripture
Is living and waiting, watching and laboring for Jesus’ Return**

“You Had Better Be Ready Today and Everyday... *but*”

This Passage is NOT referring to Jesus' Return;
BUT RATHER HIS COMING TO JUDGE THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH ARE YOU?

IV) When all hope seems to have slipped away vv. 4-6

1st We must determine today to press forward v.4

You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy...

1. You (the pastor, the church) have a few names even in Sardis
2. who have not defiled their garments;
3. and they shall (will) walk with Me in white, for they are worthy...

“imagine - a few names”

even in Chino, Chino Hills or Diamond Bar or... Hollywood

Why or How are These, “The Few in Name” Worthy? By Faith Alone in Jesus Christ

Ephesians 2:4-9

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, :5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)... :6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, :7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. :8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, :9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2 Timothy 3:14

But you must **continue** in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

1 Timothy 4:16

Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. **Continue** in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Acts 14:22

So Paul and Barnabas returned, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them to continue in the faith*, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

When all hope seems to have slipped away

2nd We must look to His approval

v.5

...He who overcomes shall (will) be clothed in white garments

In Sardinian History

at the worship celebrations of their pagan deities, if you had performed all the secret rights and ordinances required of you, and that if you had been faithful to the demands of the gods... you were given a white robe...

Jesus Simply Says;
You Shall be Clothed in White - *made white!*

Clearly in Heaven - White Robes
Speak of our Earthly Faithfulness to Our Heavenly Jesus

Yes - It Matters Now How You Invest Your Life

What are You Planting Now for Spring?

Nothing - you'll get nothing
A little - you'll get a little
Some - you'll get some
A lot - you'll get a lot

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. :7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

“Well done thou good and faithful servant - enter in”
not over easy / scrambled or sunny side up

3rd We must rejoice in His promises that endure

v.5-6

...and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but 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.”

There was The Lydian Roll of Sardis

There was The Roman Registry of the Empire

And There is The Book of Life

Every Human Being that has Ever Lived, Everyone of You Here Right Now, Each of You Listening In, From Adam and Eve to Now, you have been placed in the book of life. - every citizen of humanity!!!

But There Will be a “Blotting Out Day” to Come, Says the Bible.

All those who have been given life are recorded in “The Book of life”.
From “The Book of life”, some names - - it’s not many names”
will be transferred over to the “Lambs Book of Life”

Revelation 21:27

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in **the Lamb’s book of life**.

Revelation 20:15

And all those whose names **were not found** written in **the Book of Life** were cast into the lake of fire.

Psalms 69:28

Let them be blotted out of **the book of the living**,
And let them not be written with the righteous.

If you Can Hear Me Now –

Your Name is in “The Book of Life” But if You Want to get to Heaven, You need your name Copied from the Book of Life, over to the Lambs Book of Life...

Go To The Book of Life

Highlight Your Name / Go to Edit / Click On “Copy”

Then Go To The LAMBS Book of Life

Go to Edit / Click On “Paste”

If Your Name isn’t Copied Over,

It will be because of your own doing.
It will be deleted, blotted out from the book of Life forever.

In the Ancient Roman Empire

If you were tried and convicted of a “Capitol” Offensive.
The Judge would order Your name Removed from the Census, The Registrar, - And at that moment your citizenship was revoked and you were then carried away to prison and had no name...

Please Hear Me;

*“...Jesus says, - I will confess his name
(yours and mine) before My Father and before His angels*

When Jesus Calls Us, He Calls Publicly

Matthew 10:32-33

“Therefore whoever **confesses Me before men**, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven....But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Hearing Your Name in a Crowd

Hearing Your Name in a Conversation,

There Will Come a Day When You will Hear Your Name and I will Hear Mine...

When He, Who

“Walks in the midst, the seven lampstands, the Son of mankind, who’s clothed with a shining garment down to the feet and girded about His chest with a golden band. He who’s head and hair *are* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet - like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He who has in His right hand the seven stars, He, who, out of His mouth goes a sharp two-edged sword, and His face *is* like the sun shining in its full strength. - - John says “And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. **But He laid His right hand on me, and He said to me, “Do not be afraid;**

Luke 10:20

Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

Hebrews 12:23

to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

WHAT THIS *MUST MEAN* TO US - IS THIS, THAT THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS THAT...

How Does a Church Die?

The People inside Them Fall Asleep – spiritually speaking

Ephesians 5:14

Awake thou that **sleepest**, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

A Sleepy Pastor can Kill a Church

and/or

Sleepy Christians Can Kill a Church

In the Spiritual Realm

I wonder what this church sounds like from the outside?

Is There Living Worship Spilling Out onto the Streets?
or
Or Is There a Respectable, Reverent Silence
that's only Interrupted by an Occasional Snore or Twitch

A Personal Passion, A Personal Explanation

It May Be at that moment for me, that Jesus Looks into Shame-Filled eyes, for having failed Him so often in this life, and He says to me...

... "Jack, I told you in my Bible that I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving-kindness I have drawn you to me... *I told you that "I would never leave you nor forsake you.. remember – I said behold I am with you always, even to the end, didn't I tell you that neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, that nothing created, shall ever be able to separate you from the love of God which is in Me, Christ Jesus your Lord...*