

1. AN EVALUATION OF THE CHURCH AT SARDIS: The Autopsy shows:

1. THEY HAD RELIGION WITHOUT CHRISTIANITY

1. They had missed the road when they ceased (the christians at Sardis) being strangers and pilgrims in an unfriendly world.
 1. They had become buddy buddies with the world. James 4:4
 2. They had become professionals trafficking in cold, lifeless, heart-hardening duty and unflinching truth.

2. THEY HAD REPUTATION WITHOUT CHARACTER

1. Its membership was made up of some of elite society of Sardis.
2. It had an ornate church building well located right smack dab at the corner of SELF-SATISFACTION STREET and COMPLACENCY BOULEVARD. to have had the Person, the place, and the people.
3. They seem to have had the Person, the place, and the people, but the Lord could do no mighty works among them because of their unbelief, Matt. 13:58. Jesus rejected in Nazareth: "And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."

3. THEY HAD ORGANIZATION WITHOUT LIFE

1. They were at ease in Zion. Amos 6:1; "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountains of Samaria, which named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!"
 - 1.) They were living in fancied security and self-pleasing.
 2. Their trust was in their organization which they must have had.
 3. They were all arrayed in a Christian uniform, but they were fighting on the world's side.
 4. They professed to be Christians, but many of them were holding on to the world. Romans 12:2
 5. DO NOT DISTURB was the sign they had hung on the door.

2. THE REMNANT IN THIS DEAD CHURCH. "A few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments. 3:4

1. The expression, EVEN IN SARDIS, is a commentary upon the condition of the city of Sardis; This indicates a like condition in the church.
2. These few had not defiled their garments. Rev. 3:4
 1. Sardis was dead (the church) but a few had not defiled their garments.
 1. They had kept themselves unspotted from the world. James 1:27

3. THE THREEFOLD PROMISE TO THE VICTOR (Rev. 3:5) He that overcometh:

1. They shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. V. 4
The same shall be clothed in white raiment. Verse 5 This means:
 1. They stood in purity of life. Only the pure in heart shall see God. Matt. 5:8 In this we have three things:
 - (1) PROGRESS: "They shall walk."
 - (2) PARTNERSHIP: "With me."
 - (3) PURITY: Indicated by "in white."
 2. They stood for festivity. The white robe was a robe of feasting. Unless our Christianity brings us joy and happiness it brings us nothing.
 3. They stood for victory: The white robe was the symbol of the victor's robe; Victory with Christ.

Church of Christ

SOUTH GREEN STREET GLASGOW, KENTUCKY 42141

THEY HAD REPUTATION WITHOUT CHARACTER

1. The membership was made up of some of the elite society of Sardis.
2. It had an ornate church building well located right smack dab at the corner of SELF-SATISFACTION STREET and CONVICTION.
3. They were living in favored security and self-deception.
4. They were living in favored security and self-deception.
5. They were living in favored security and self-deception.

THEY HAD ORGANIZATION WITHOUT LIFE

1. They were all engaged in a Christian warfare, but they were fighting on the world's side.
2. They were living in favored security and self-deception.
3. They were living in favored security and self-deception.
4. They were living in favored security and self-deception.
5. They were living in favored security and self-deception.

THE REMAINS IN THIS DEAD CHURCH

1. The expression, "EVEN IN SARDIS," is a commentary upon the condition of the city of Sardis; this indicates a like condition in the church.
2. These few had not defiled their garments. Rev. 3:14
3. They had kept themselves unspotted from the world. James 1:27

THE TRIPLED PROMISE TO THE VICTOR (Rev. 3:5) He that overcometh:

1. They shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy. Rev. 3:5
2. They shall be clothed in white raiment. James 2:26
3. They shall not be ashamed before the Father. Rev. 3:5
4. They shall be clothed in white raiment. James 2:26
5. They shall be clothed in white raiment. James 2:26

3. THE THREEFOLD PROMISE TO THE VICTOR. Continued:

2. His name to be retained in the book of life. 3:5; "...I will not blot his name out of the book of life."

1. The book of life is an allusion to a registry for worthy citizens.

2. A few names not to be blotted out would indicate that the unworthy ones would be blotted out.

3. SPECIAL NOTE: A name cannot be blotted out of the book of life, if it had never been recored in it.

(1) SPECIAL LESSON: We have here positive proof of the possibility of apostasy.

3. Their names confessed before the Father, and before his holy angels. Rev. 3:5

1. We note that Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will confess before my Father which is in heaven. 33-But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 10:32,33

2. Confessed before the Father means: Honorable recognition.

So this is the account of, and promise to some living souls in a dead church. This church was at Sardis but it might be just most any where.

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2. His name to be retained in the book of life. 3:28. "I will not blot his name out of the book of life."

1. The book of life is an almanac to a registry for worthy citizens.

2. A few names not to be blotted out would indicate that the worthy ones would be blotted out.

3. SPECIAL NOTE: A name cannot be blotted out of the book of life, if it had never been recorded in it.

(1) SPECIAL LESSON: We have here positive proof of the possibility of apostasy.

3. Their names confessed before the Father, and before his holy angels, Rev. 19:20

1. We note that Jesus said, "Whoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven. 33-but whoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 10:32, 33

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