

1. A GRIM PICTURE OF THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

1. "A name that thou livest, and art dead." 3:1
2. In material things the church at Sardis might have a certain prosperity, but in everything that mattered it was dead.
3. Materially it seemed very much alive; spiritually it was dead.

2. EASING THE PAINS OF DEATH

1. As you enter some cemeteries, soft sentimental music is played during the final rites for the dead. This music may:
  - (1) Take the minds of the mourners away from the fact of death,
  - (2) But it cannot remove the fact of death.

3. REPUTATION VERSUS CHARACTER

1. Reputation is what people think about you right or wrong.
2. Character is what you really are.
  - (1) Here was a church (Sardis) reputed to be alive, and very likely had all the appearances of life.
  - (2) But back of all the soft sentimental music and under the flowers that bedecked her alters the church in Sardis was dead.

3. WHY HAD SHE (THE CHURCH IN SARDIS) DIED?

1. An autopsy is sometimes necessary to determine the cause, or causes of death in the physical body of man.
2. A spiritual autopsy may be of help to us in determining the cause of the spiritual death of the church in Sardis, or in any other place.

4. RESULTS OF THE AUTOPSY AT SARDIS

1. An apparent case of RELIGION without CHRISTIANITY.
2. They had been inoculated with a mild form of religion that made them immune to the real thing: CHRISTIANITY.
3. The same Bible that speaks of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23) also speaks of the works of the flesh: Gal. 5:19, 21.
  - (1) They had been working in the strength of the flesh and not in the power of the Spirit.
  - (2) This means that they had a form of godliness, but they denied the power thereof: 2 Tim 3:5; Titus 1:16.

5. WHAT CAUSED ALL OF THIS?1. THEY HAD REPUTATION WITHOUT CHARACTER

- (1) They had a name but they did not have character.

2. THEY HAD RELIGION WITHOUT CHRISTIANITY

- (1) The world is long on religion but woefully short on Christianity.
- (2) Any religion where Christ is shut out is like a body without spirit or life. James 2:26
- (3) A church lacking the vital presence and influence of Christ, regardless of what its claims may be, is in truth dead.
- (4) The church at Sardis was like mighty Samson who "wist not that the Lord was departed from him." Judges 16:19-21.

3. THEY HAD ORGANIZATION WITHOUT LIFE

- (1) In some lower animals one may observe muscular movement even after life is extinct. In this church (Sardis) one might observe some "muscular movement, but the steam (power) had been shut off: Trains, cars, ETC will move some after the power is shut off.

# Church of Christ

SOUTH GREEN STREET GLASGOW, KENTUCKY 42141

- (1) The church is a body of believers who are united together in the love of God and the love of one another.
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## THE CITY OF SARDIS

1. Located thirty miles southeast of Thyatira and was one of the oldest and most storied of cities in Asia Minor.
2. It was one of the world's great trading centers, and wealth poured in upon it.
3. Sardis had been the ancient capital of the kingdom of Lydia, and away back in 560 B. C. Croesus, whose name has become a proverb for wealth, was its king.
4. It is of interest to note that the first coinage ever to be minted in Asia Minor was minted in Sardis and in the days of king Croesus.
5. The people in Sardis were notoriously:
  1. loose-living; pleasure, and luxury-loving. This made it a city of decadence.
  2. Every day Sardis grew wealthier; but the more wealthy it grew the more it lost all claim to greatness.
    - (1) One writer said that even nature itself conspired to bring more wealth to Sardis in a stream that came from off the distant mountain side laden with gold dust. This stream is reported to have flowed right through the market place in Sardis.
6. The fate of Sardis.
  1. The fate of Sardis was that life had been too easy for it. It had grown flabby and had sunk into an easy voluptuous decadence.
    - (1) When we read this letter (Rev. 3:1-6) we see that the church at Sardis had been traveling the same road as the city.

SOUTH GREEN STREET, CLEVELAND, OHIO

*Church of Christ*

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of which has been prevailing the same long as the city.  
(1) when we read this letter (Rev. 3:17) we see that the church  
has been given and had such into an early morning presence.  
1. The love of which was that life had been too early for it. It  
2. The love of which.

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Christ we have been made known with God that. This is the  
more clearly to which in a sense that some of the  
(1) one must be that even when we are connected to which  
the more it is just all of it to which.  
3. The love of which Jesus Christ: but the more clearly it is known

of presence.  
1. The love of which: Jesus Christ, and which is the city  
2. The love of which was more clearly:

which.  
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it is of which to note that the first of which was to be

which for which, was the which.  
and which was in the B. C. which, more than was become a which-  
3. which was the which of the which of which.

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THE END OF WHICH