

LESSON NUMBER TWO

1. THE PEACE OF DEATH WAS IN THE CHURCH AT SARDIS. Rev. 3:1; WHY?

1. Their reputation was that they were alive but the truth was they were dead. Lessons:

1. In any church there is nothing to be desired more than peace.

(1) Phil 4:7: "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

(2) Col 3:15: "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

(3) 1 Thess 5:13 "And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

2. In any church there is nothing to be more feared as that peace which is the peace of death, the peace of languorous lethargy, the peace which descended on Sardis.

2. THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEACE. There is:

1. The peace of conquest and achievement. A work well done.

2. There is that peace that comes with and after a great effort into which a man has put his all

2. There is that peace of the man who has ceased to care. This man:

1. The peace of this man has sunk into a comfortable lethargy.

2. The dreams of this man are dead and his mind is asleep to all that is worthwhile and that would require any unusual effort and sacrifice.

3. He has fallen into the peace that comes through evasion and escape.

LOCATED: AT THE CORNER OF SELF-SATISFACTION STREET AND COMPLACENCY BOULEVARD.

3. THE CHURCH AT SARDIS WAS DEAD! Why and when did it die?

1. The Sardis church may have been pleasure bent. "She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (1 Tim. 5:6).

2. The church at Sardis was not persecuted.

1. The devil never takes time nor the trouble to persecute a dead church.

(1) As soldiers do not waste bullets on the enemy dead, neither does Satan waste ammunition on a lifeless church.

(2) This church in Sardis enjoyed peace and silence but it was the peace of shadowy silence and death

2. When does a church die? A church dies:

1. When it becomes over-confident and self-satisfied.

2. We should be afraid and really fearful for the future of any church located at the corner of SELF-SATISFACTION STREET AND COMPLACENCY BOULEVARD.

2. A church dies when it begins to think more of its own comfort than it does of the salvation of a lost world. Amos 6:1: "Wee to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Isreal came." **Self-satisfaction; indifference; negligence; self-indulgence; carelessness.**

3. A church dies when love dies: love of God's Word, love for lost souls. love for our brethren... THAT IS WHEN A CHURCH DIES.

4. A church dies, is in danger of death, when it begins to worship its own past.

1. This means that the church is living on its memories instead of finding a great challenge in its hopes.

Satisfied with the present, no hope for the future, or after I die.



3. WHEN DOES A CHURCH DIE?

A church dies:

Continued;

5. A church is in danger of death: A church has died when it is more concerned with material than spiritual things. The primary obligation of the church is to:

1. Bring men and women face to face with Jesus Christ.
2. When any congregation of God's people forgets its primary obligation of bringing men and women to know and obey Christ's gospel to become a battleground over things material, it is on its way to spiritual death and night.

6. A church is in danger of death when deterioration caused by inactivity sets in.

1. Once you went to prayer meeting on Wednesday night. You enjoyed the Sunday evening service. You were always present Sunday morning.
2. But one day you dropped out of the midweek service. Soon you failed to attend Sunday night. Then there came the time when you missed on Sunday morning. Out of it all came the time when you attended only on special days: Mother's Day; Easter; Christmas ETC.

3. The man who died from Deterioration:

- (1) The man in the car wreck, suffered an injury, lay in a Cincinnati hospital identified simply as patient X.
- (2) In an attempt to remove a blood clot the brain cell was damaged and Patient X lay in that hospital 9 years in a coma. Eventually he died and the doctors wrote on the death certificate: "Died of deterioration caused by inactivity." He just grew weaker and weaker until at last the circulation system broke down so his death certificate read not "died from a brain injury," but "died from deterioration caused by in activity."

4. Finally, The Church is Dead When:

1. Its motive is to be popular and always favorably received by the world.
  1. Our motive is to be seen by men.
  2. What we do, prayer, alms; contributing ETC all are right within themselves. Become worthless to us when we are concerned about impressing men with our performance in these matters.

5. THE STORY OF THE DEAD CHURCH

1. The preacher announced that he would preach the funeral sermon for the church that Sunday night. He urged all to come and a great crowd was present.
2. The casket had been brought in, he preached the funeral sermon and invited those present to review the remains.
3. A large mirror had been placed in the casket so that each one saw himself when he looked into the casket.

SOUTH GREEN STREET    617330M KENTUCKA 45211

*Handwritten scribbles*

# Church of Christ

SOUTH GREEN STREET GLASGOW, KENTUCKY 42141

... when he looked into the ...

... and ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...