

The Churches of Revelation: Jesus Speaks His Mind

Pt. 5-Bringing Faith Back to Life

June 14, 2009

Ephesus was **"Busy"**

Jesus said... Return to your first love

Smyrna was **"Suffering"**

Jesus said... Be fearless, Be faithful

Pergamum was **"Confused"**

Jesus said... Recognize that "doubts" grow out of relationship

Thyatira was **"Tolerant"**

Jesus said... Stay uncomfortable with all that violates Scripture

The Church at Sardis

Revelation 3:1a "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars:

Jesus Commendation

Revelation 3:4 "Yet there are some in the church in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes with evil. They will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.

Jesus Shares His Complaint

Revelation 3:1b "I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.

"Imposing programs, elaborate rituals, and multiplication of organizations have been substituted for the Word of God and real spiritual life. There is activity, but no actions, motion without movement, promotion without progress, and program without power.

Although the outward form remains, the living creature has vacated the shell."

J. Vernon McGee

"Many Christians are really Christ-aholics and not disciples at all."

"Disciples are cross bearers. They see Christ. Christ-aholics seek happiness. Disciples dare to discipline themselves and the demands they place on themselves lead them to enjoy the happiness of their growth.

Christ-aholics are escapists looking for a short cut to Nirvana." Calvin Miller

Jesus Challenge to the Church

Revelation 3:2-3 Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God. Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don't wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.

How to Bring Faith Back to life...

Lamentations 3:4 "Let us test and examine our ways. Let us turn again in repentance to the Lord."

Ask God to show you the gaps in your life...and ask Him to help you close them.

Jesus Reward to the Church

Revelation 3:5-6 All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine. "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

1 John 5:4-5 For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

What does it mean to be one who overcomes?

Revelation 2:7 "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life..."

Revelation 2:11 "He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death."

Revelation 2:17 "To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna."

Revelation 7:26 "To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations..."