

RECAP SESSION 5: Revelation 2:18-29

Introduction and Identification (Revelation 2:18a): The passage begins with an introduction, and Jesus identifies himself as the Son of God, whose eyes are like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. This imagery conveys the penetrating insight and righteous judgment of Christ.

Commendation for Good Works, Love, Faith, and Service (Revelation 2:19): Jesus commends the church in Thyatira for their good works, love, faith, service, and patient endurance. They have shown growth in their Christian virtues.

Concern for Tolerance of False Prophetess (Revelation 2:20-23): Despite their positive qualities, there is a concern about a woman in the church referred to as "Jezebel," likely symbolic of a false prophetess. She leads some in the church into immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. Jesus warns of impending judgment for her and those who follow her.

Call to Repentance (Revelation 2:21-22): Jesus gives Jezebel and her followers time to repent, but if they do not, there will be consequences, including sickness and great tribulation.

Promise to the Faithful (Revelation 2:24-29): The passage concludes with a promise to the faithful in Thyatira who have not followed the false teachings. They are encouraged to hold fast until Christ's return. The promise includes authority over the nations, the morning star, and recognition by Christ.

The church Sardis had the reputation of being alive- vibrant, spirit filled, open too God's work, obedient to God's word. But as Jesus looked at this church, he saw a deeper reality. The church was not wicked or immoral, but dead, unresponsive to Christ.

Read: Revelation 3:1-6

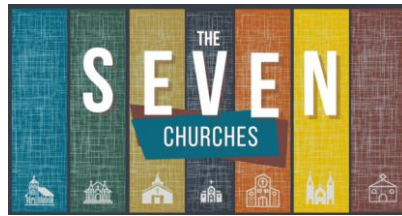
Discussion Questions:

- 1.) What was Jesus' evaluation of this church (v.1), and how did he arrive at this evaluation?

Do you think you would have arrived at the same conclusion if you had been a part of the church in Sardis? Why?

- 2.) Jesus gives five commands to the people in this dead church (v2-3). List the commands and explain what obeying each command might involve.

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.



E.

3.) Which of these commands would Jesus speak to your church, and why?

Which command would Jesus speak personally to you?

4.) is the visitation Jesus promises if the church does not wake up (v.3) a good thing or a not so good thing?

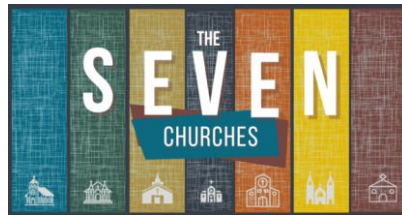
What might such a visit from the Lord look like in a church today?

5.) Some students of these churches believe that the problem at Sardis was the church's unwillingness to break away from traditional Judaism. Since Jews were not required to declare publicly that Caesar was Lord, most of these Christians were reluctant to declare their belief that Jesus was Lord in front of their Jewish friends and families. Following Jesus as the promised Messiah meant having your name blotted from the synagogue membership roll and being removed from the protections of Judaism provided. What is Jesus' promise to those who faithfully follow him (v5).

6.) What is implied about those who refuse to acknowledge Jesus publicly?

7.) In what situations today might a Christian be reluctant to declare loyalty to Jesus rather than seek the approval of those around them?

8.) In what area or situation is Jesus calling you to new boldness in declaring and demonstrating your allegiance to him?



Study 6:
The Dead Church
Revelation 3:1-6

What are the risks?

What are the rewards?

RESPOND: Spend a few minutes in quietness before the Lord. Ask him to reveal to you any areas of deadness in your relationship with him.

NOW OR LATER:

The “book of life” (or the “Lambs book of life”) is mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments. Read the following verses and summarise what each reveals about the book of life.

- Exodus 32:32
- Psalm 69:28
- Daniel 12:1-2
- Luke 10:20
- Philippians 4:3
- Hebrews 12:23
- Revelation 20:12,15
- Revelation 21:27

Christian theologians have proposed several views on the book of life, but the view that seems to fit most closely with scripture is that the book lists in the arms of every person who has ever lived. Those who died trusting Christ for salvation live forever and their names remain in in the book. People who die outside of Christ will experience the second death, separation from Christ forever, and their names are blood out or arrears from the book. Only those whose names remain in the book of life experience the glory of heaven.