

CHURCH AT SARDIS

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SARDIS

1. Was one of the oldest and most storied cities of Asia Minor.
2. Was at the center of a knot of five different roads.
3. We can find it as an ancient capital as far back as 560 B.C.
4. Also might note that the first coinage ever to be minted in Asia Minor was in Sardis.
5. It was a great commercial center and extremely wealthy.
6. It was the center of the woolen industry.
7. It was NOT a center of Caesar worship although it would have like this.
8. It was not really know for its religion or temples. Did have the worship of Cybele. This was a wild, frenzied, hysterical affair. But not particularly dangerous to Christians.
9. Perhaps the greatest characteristic of Sardis was that even on pagan lips, Sardis was a name of contempt.
 - a. Its people were notoriously loose living, pleasure...and luxury-loving.
 - b. Sardis was a city of decadence.
 - c. The fate of Sardis was that life had been too easy for it.
 - d. Even the heathen would have known what the risen Christ meant when he said that Sardis had a name that it was living but was dead.

Church of The Living Dead

- A. Outward The Church May Have Looked Alive.
 1. Had material things.
 2. Even “keeping house”.
- B. SOME THINGS THAT CAUSE A CHURCH TO DIE.
 1. Worships its past and lives on memories instead of finding a challenge.
 2. When it becomes more concerned with forms than with life. Correct ritual than with living vitality.
 3. When it loves systems more than it loves Jesus Christ.
 4. When it is more concerned for material things than for the spiritual.

CENSURE

- A. “I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and thou are dead”
 1. The Lord distinguishes here between the reputation of this congregation and its actual spiritual condition.
 2. I Timothy 5:6.
- B. A congregation may have a splendid reputation today.....
 1. But the Lord knows the true condition.
 2. How about us...as a congregation...as individuals?

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COUNSEL

- A. "BE THOU WATCHFUL" There is a reason for this.
1. The story is told by the Greek historian Herodotus.
 2. From its position Sardis was regarded as well-nigh impregnable.
 - a. Behind it rose Mount Tmolus.
 - b. From the mountain there went out a narrow ridge of rock, like a pier and on that ridge the citadel of Sardis was.
 - c. Cyrus besieging Sardis wished to take it with all speed.
 3. Offered a reward to the man who would figure a way.
 4. A soldier saw one of the Lydian soldier drop his helmet, and watched him go get it.
 5. That night he led a special troop up the same way, found the city unguarded and took it. ‘
 6. Sardis was so confident that posted no guards. (200 years later the same thing happened.).
- B. THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH "TO WATCH".
1. They had a good reputation.
 2. Didn't think about falling. 3. Over confident.
- C. WHERE MUST WE WATCH:?
1. We must watch our weak point.....We must watch our strong points.
 2. This is way Sardis fell. And why many Christian fall.
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COMMENDATION

- A. Not to the church as such...But to a few of the faithful members.
1. Who had not defiled their garments.
 2. In the Greek religion it was sacrilege to approach the gods with soiled or stained garments.
 3. Here the defilement is sin.
- B. THE CLEANSING POWER IS THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB:
1. I Corinthians 6:11. 2.] Acts 22:16.
 3. Continued to keep them pure.... I John 1:9.
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PROMISE

- A. "Be arrayed in white garments." Stood for 3 things.
1. They stood for purity.
 2. They stood for festivity. (Robe of feasting. The joy of heaven will be a festal joy.)
 3. They stood for victory.
- B. "I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life."
1. In ancient city a register was kept...Person died his name removed.
 2. Jesus promise to us: (We will not die). Our name in heavens book. Ch. 20
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