



#SEVENCHURCHES

THE WATERED-DOWN CHURCH

REVELATION 3:1-6

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SEVEN STRUCTURED LETTERS

- Addressed to seven specific leaders and churches
- With an applicable “revealing” of Jesus for that specific church
- That spoke to the current condition of that church whether it needed encouragement or correction.
- That pointed out the consequences of neglect or disobedience
- Gave a promise to those that persevered in the instruction given
- And issued a challenge that we must “hear and obey”





Revelation 3:1–6(ESV)

To the Church in Sardis

3-1 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. “ ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.





3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. 4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. 6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'





1. THE ADDRESSEE

Revelation 3:1a

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write”





33.195 ἄγγελος, angelos - to tell, to inform, a person who makes an announcement, a messenger

AS THE LEADERS GO...SO DOES THE CHURCH!





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2. THE “REVEALING” OF CHRIST TO SARDIS

Revelation 3:1b

‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.





THE DESCRIPTION OF JESUS PRESENTED IN REVELATION 1

Revelation 1:4-5a (the seven spirits)

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5a - and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness,

Revelation 1:20b (the seven stars)

the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.





WHO ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS THAT ARE BEFORE THE THRONE?

Isaiah 11:1-2

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.





WHAT'S THE "APPLICATION"?

Christ presented Himself to these leaders at Sardis as the all-wise God. The One that knew them in every way. With the greatest understanding Jesus knew everything they were facing. He also knew every thought, every deed, every reaction, every word spoken. Jesus is saying "You can trust this word that is coming from Me!"





3. THE NEEDED ENCOURAGEMENT OR CORRECTION

Revelation 3:1b

I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent.





REVEALTION 3:1c-3a (MESSAGE)

I see right through your work. You have a reputation for vigor and zest, but you're dead, stone-dead. Up on your feet! Take a deep breath! Maybe there's life in you yet. But I wouldn't know it by looking at your busywork; nothing of God's work has been completed. Your condition is desperate. Think of the gift you once had in your hands, the Message you heard with your ears—grasp it again and turn back to God.





JESUS SAYS in MATTHEW 5:13-16 (LIVING BIBLE)

13 You are the world's seasoning, to make it tolerable. If you lose your flavor, what will happen to the world? And you yourselves will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. 14 You are the world's light—a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. 15-16 Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father.





PAUL SAYS in TITUS 2:12-15 (ESV)

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. 15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.





WHAT'S THE "APPLICATION"?

You must not EVER be content with living out a faithless, flavorless, watered-down version of how God expects us to live, even if it means we fall into some form of contempt for you or persecution.





4. THE CONSEQUENCES OF NEGLECTING THIS WORD

Revelation 3:3b

If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.





PAUL SAYS in ROMANS 1: 21-28 (Passion)

21 Throughout human history the fingerprints of God were upon them, yet they refused to honor him as God or even be thankful for his kindness. Instead, they entertained corrupt and foolish thoughts about what God was like. This left them with nothing but misguided hearts, steeped in moral darkness. 22 Although claiming to be super-intelligent, they were in fact shallow fools. 23 For only a fool would trade the unfading splendor of the immortal God to worship the fading image of other humans, idols made to look like people, animals, birds, and even creeping reptiles!





24 This is why God lifted off his restraining hand and let them have full expression of their sinful and shameful desires. They were given over to moral depravity, dishonoring their bodies by sexual perversion among themselves—25 all because they traded the truth of God for a lie. They worshiped and served the things God made rather than the God who made all things—glory and praises to him for eternity of eternities! 26–27 For this reason God gave them over to their own disgraceful and vile passions. 28 And because they thought it was worthless to embrace the true knowledge of God, God gave them over to a worthless mind-set, to break all rules of proper conduct.





WHAT'S THE "APPLICATION"?

We need to be very "secure" in our salvation and what Christ did for us. However, we also need to be "considering" our salvation all the time. Making sure that our lives are in alignment with Him and what He wants for our lives. Maybe even asking God how we are doing with some of the things that He is talking to us about.





5. THE PROMISE FOR THOSE THAT HEED THIS WORD

Revelation 3:4-5

4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.





WHAT'S THE "APPLICATION"

It is not always the easiest thing to see as an encouragement while we are here in this world, but there are truly bigtime rewards waiting for us in heaven for many that persevere in our faith and don't let ourselves become watered-down Christians which creates a watered-down Church.





6. THE CHALLENGE TO “HEAR and OBEY”

Revelation 3:6

6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.





WHAT'S THE "APPLICATION"?

Our failure to ACT on what God is clearly speaking to us about can jeopardize our own usefulness in Kingdom purposes. It is possible to live in the manner of disobedience where our witness and testimony for Christ is completely watered-down and we don't look any different than the rest of the world around us.





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