

SARDIS: WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY

REVELATION, #4

Pastor Dennis Clanton

Woodland Church

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

“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: “I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead. 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. “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. 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.”

(Revelation 3:1–6, NLT)

THE RELATIONSHIP OF JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE CHURCH IS CLEAR.

“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.”

(Revelation 3:1a, NLT)

A. SEVEN REPRESENTS COMPLETENESS AND PERFECTION.

“You love justice and hate evil. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.”

(Psalm 45:7, NLT)

“But to the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.” (Hebrews 1:8–9, NLT)

B. JESUS SEARCHES EVERY HEART.

“But to the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.” (Hebrews 1:8–9, NLT)

C. A PROFESSION OF FAITH MUST BECOME A POSSESSION OF FAITH.

“Timothy, keep safe what has been entrusted to your care. Avoid the profane talk and foolish arguments of what some people wrongly call “Knowledge”. For some have claimed to possess it, and as a result they have lost the way of faith. God’s grace be with you all.” (1 Timothy 6:20–21, GN)

“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.” (1 Corinthians 16:13, NLT)

“Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again.” (Revelation 3:3, NLT)

THE ONLY ENEMY MENTIONED IS THE CHURCH.

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

SARDIS IS THE MODEL OF INOFFENSIVE CHRISTIANITY.

WAKE UP, MEANS THEY HAVE NO IDEA THAT THEY ARE DEAD!

“Wake up!” (Revelation 3:2, NLT)

“Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again.” (Revelation 3:3, NLT)

BE A CONTAGIOUS WITNESS FOR JESUS CHRIST.

“For the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” (Ephesians 5:14–17, NLT)

INVITE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO STRENGTHEN, EMPOWER AND MAKE YOU BOLD!

“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. 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.” (Revelation 3:4–5, NLT)

HE WILL COME LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT TO THOSE WHO ARE SLEEPING.

If you don’t wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief. (Revelation 3:3b)

GROWTHWORK

1. EXAMINE MY LIFE FOR GAPS.

“I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.” (Revelation 3:1, NLT)

2. AM I FURTHER ALONG IN MY WALK WITH CHRIST THAN I WAS TWO YEARS AGO?

3. I WILL NEVER OUTGROW MY NEED FOR FORGIVENESS.

4. HOLD FIRMLY TO MY FAITH IN CHRIST!

“Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly.” (Revelation 3:3, NLT)

“Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.”
(Lamentations 3:40, NIV)

a. WHERE ARE THE GAPS (WEAK SPOTS) IN MY FAITH?

- i. PRAYER**
- ii. BIBLE READING**
- iii. WITNESSING**
- iv. FORGIVENESS**
- v. HUMILITY**
- vi. SERVICE**
- vii. WAKE UP!**

b. WHERE AM I STRONG IN MY FAITH?

“Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead.”
(Revelation 3:2, NLT)

5. WHAT AND WHERE DO I ENJOY SERVING CHRIST?

6. WHAT DO I NEED TO LET GO OF?

7. WHAT HAS GOD BEEN TELLING ME TO DO?

8. LIVE READY FOR THE IMMINENT RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST.