

The Revelation of Jesus.

Week #7: The Church in Sardis

February 18, 2018

The Book of Revelation describes the end of God's story. It is a book full of imagery that has caused much speculation, confusion and division in the Church. But at its very core, Revelation carries a simple and powerful message: "I, the Risen Christ, am returning soon - so be ready for my return." Of course, within that message is an equally powerful one that keeps our commitment to Jesus strong during times of great uncertainty: Christ has defeated death, and upon His return will end the madness of our world as we know it. So until then, we wait, but do so knowing fully that Christ's victory is assured ... and His victory is also our victory.

As we study the first chapters of Revelation, I ask you to prayerfully study and pray each week in order to be assured that the Risen Christ whom we worship is on the move. And be ready.

Study Questions: #7 - *The Church in Sardis*

Read Revelation 3:1-6

1. Jesus tells the Sardis Church that they have a reputation.
 - What are the good things about having a reputation (assuming it's a good one!)
 - What are the dangers?
 - What reputation does New Life have?
2. Pastor Ken said that the Christians in Sardis were missing the power of the Holy Spirit - they were giving a brilliant performance, but forgetting the entire point. Ken said that because supernatural living requires supernatural resources, the Spirit's power is necessary
 - List some of the supernatural resources that the Holy Spirit provides.
 - To what degree are these resources evident in our life together? Using the sailing analogy, where is the wind of the Spirit filling our sails? Where do we need His wind?
3. Christ's rebuke and warning to Sardis began with the words, "Wake up!"
 - What does a fully awake congregation look like?
 - How can we be more fully awake?
4. Ken talked about knowing I am filled with the Spirit when: I have a deep desire to read the Bible; My prayer life is not a list, but a listening session; The nagging habits of my old life really bother me; Telling others about Jesus is a regular part of my life; I am deeply aware of God's abundance, and sharing it with others.
 - How well do these five points describe your life with Jesus today? How about our congregation - do they describe our life together?
 - Do you feel led by the Spirit of God each day? Do you give Him room to influence your plans and activities? When you pray, do you listen as much as you speak?
 - Do the habits of your old life bother you? Is what you read, view and actively take part in changing since you embraced Jesus and began following Him?
 - Is telling others about Jesus natural for you? Who have you shared the Lord with recently?
 - Are you aware of God's abundant care for you, and sharing it with others? (Gal 5).
 - Take time this week to ponder and pray about these things.