

REVELATION

THE HOPE OF JESUS REVEALED

Part 5: A Matter of Life and Death

June 27 & 28, 2015

Grant Fishbook, Teaching Pastor

Revelation 3:1-13: Strong words to a church that appeared alive, but was in fact... dead.

¹“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

A spiritually dead church:

Worships the good old days

Refuses to change

Is complacent in its leadership

Disregards the next generation

Ignores the urgent call to share Jesus

God's plea to a dead church:

²Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

God's promise to the living among the dead:

⁴Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Important Truth: God has a book.

Important Question: Is your name in the book?

Encouraging words to a church that was alive in word, truth and action:

⁷“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

⁸I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word

and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. ¹³ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

A spiritually vibrant church:

Walks through the door of opportunity (vs. 7-8a)

Finds strength in the name and Word of God (vs. 8b)

Expects and anticipates opposition (vs. 9)

Relies on God's protection in times of trial and tribulation* (vs. 10)

Finds its identity fully in Jesus (vs. 11-13)

*** Rapture and Tribulation Scriptures**

Luke 17:34-37; Mark 13:32-37; Matthew 24; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Daniel 12:1-13; Revelation 20:2-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-7; Revelation 7:14, 13:1-18; Daniel 9:1-27

Next Steps

- Read Revelation 3:14-21 with an eye for Jesus and the hope he promises.
- Attend CTK Introductions to meet some new people, to learn where we've come from as a church, and hear what we're focusing on for the future.
- Read the scriptures about rapture and tribulation and be prepared to discuss next week.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What has been your favorite life moment so far this summer?
- 2) How do you discern if your faith in Jesus is alive or dead? How does someone repent of a dead faith?
- 3) When was your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? Tell your story of giving your heart to Jesus.
- 4) What door of opportunity is God asking you to walk through to share your faith in Jesus with another person?
- 5) How has Jesus "written his name" on you? How would someone know that you belong to him?
- 6) How can we pray for you today and throughout the week?