

THINGS WHICH MUST SHORTLY COME TO PASS

A STUDY OF REVELATION—PART 5

We continue our study of the Seven Churches, or “The Things Which Are” (*Revelation 1:19*).

I. A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

- A. They were seven literal churches. (2, 3)
- B. Our Lord has a specific message for each church.
- C. The message is for every church in the Church Age.
- D. Types of these seven churches exist during the Church Age.
 - 1. Ephesus—The Apostolic Church (AD 30-100) (2:1-7)
 - 2. Smyrna—Persecuted Church (AD 100-313) (2:8-11)
 - 3. Pergamos—Church Married to State (AD 313-600) (2:12-17)
 - a. In 313, Constantine made Christianity the official state religion.
 - b. The church and state were married
 - c. Peregamum means “thoroughly married”
 - 4. Thyatira—Church of Dark Ages (AD 600-1517) (2:18-29)
 - a. Thyatira means “Continual or perpetual sacrifice.”
 - b. Catholic doctrine teaches continual sacrifice
 - c. The doctrine of transubstantiation
 - d. Christ is re-sacrificed in the transubstantiation
 - e. The laity was given the wafer alone
 - f. The cup was for the clergy alone
 - g. The clergy believed the real blood (supposedly) might be spilled by the laity.
 - 5. Sardis—Church of Reformation (AD 1517-1648) (3:1-6)
 - 6. Philadelphia—Church of Missions (AD 1648-1900) (3:7-13)
 - 7. Laodicea—Church of Apostasy (AD 1900-PRESENT) (3:14-22)

II. THE CITY OF SARDIS (3:1)

- A. The city was located about 30 miles southeast of Thyatira
- B. Sardis was an industrial city known for:
 - 1. Harvesting wool
 - 2. Dying wool
 - 3. Making garments from wool
- C. The city was known for extensive pagan worship.

III. JESUS GIVES THE AUTOPSY REPORT (3:1)

- A. Outward report
 - 1. The church was well known in Sardis
 - 2. The people that viewed the church spoke well of it
 - 3. Outwardly, they appeared to be spiritual

FOR THE TIME IS AT HAND

A 52-Week Study of the Book of Revelation

Week 5

DR. RON BAITY

Sunday, June 9, 2013

- B. Inward report
 - 1. He who walks among the churches sees the heart
 - 2. Though they appeared spiritual, they were actually spiritually dead
 - 3. This church was filled with:
 - a. Dead orthodoxy
 - b. Dead tradition
 - c. Dead liberalism
 - 4. THIS WAS THE CHURCH OF THE PHARISEES (*Matthew 23:27: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."*)
 - 5. This church was a well-kept mausoleum.
 - 6. This church was like a museum:
 - a. Where stuffed animals are exhibited.
 - b. They are placed in the setting of their natural habitat.
 - c. They appear to be normal, but are dead.

IV. THE COUNCIL (3:2, 3)

- A. Get off of life support (3:2)
 - 1. It is obvious some are barely alive spiritually
 - 2. Therefore they are "to strengthen the things which remain".
- B. To prevent that which is about dead to finalize, they need to:
 - 1. "Be watchful"; "wake up"—slumber leads to sleep
 - 2. The dying embers need to be fanned
 - 3. Don't have self-confidence that everything is ok: their works when examined by Jesus are not perfect, "mature" (3:2)
- C. Occasionally it is good to remember where we came from (3:3: "*remember therefore*")
 - 1. They were to remember their rich spiritual heritage
 - 2. They were to return the message of those who had taught them the precepts of Christ (3:3: "*...how thou hast received and heard...*")
- D. "Hold fast" (3:3—*refuse to relinquish any more territory to the enemy!*)
- E. "Repent" (3:3—*this message is a clarion call to the seven churches and to the churches of all ages.*)
- F. Three challenges (3:3b)
 - 1. Watchfulness ("*If therefore thou shalt not watch...*" 3:3b)
 - 2. Visitation ("*I will come on thee as a thief*")
 - a. A thief does not announce his coming
 - b. There will be no warning, only judgment
 - 3. Ignorance ("*Thou shalt not know*")
 - a. They had warning
 - b. They had council
 - c. They had willful ignorance

V. THE COMMENDATION (3:4)

- A. There was a Godly remnant at Sardis (3:4)

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1. Like Elijah, there were those who had not bowed their knees to Baal.
 2. Jesus knows who they are (3:4)
 3. The pastor knows who they are—he sees them come and go!
 4. “Garments” represents spiritual conditions
 - a. Unsaved—*“Hating even the garment spotted by the flesh”* (Jude 23)
 - b. Saved—*“They shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy.”* (Victorious righteousness)
- B. The promise—*“I will not blot out his name out of the book of life”* (3:5)
1. This is an important verse!
 2. This promise is not a threat
 3. The church militant were excommunicating saints from their membership
 4. Jesus promised the saved that He would not remove the names of the saints from the Church Triumphant!
- C. The wonder—*“I will confess his name before my father, and before his angels”* (3:5b)
1. As Christians, we are not ashamed to confess Jesus.
 2. The wonder is, how can He ever confess us?
 3. Through Jesus we have been made acceptable in the beloved. (*“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”* Ephesians 1:6)

VI. THE COUNCIL (3:6)

- A. Our Lord is concerned about “the hearing” in these churches
- B. The spirit is speaking to the church (3:7)
- C. The remnant will be the only ones who truly hear (3:4, 6)
- D. The message continues
 - a. “Remember” (3:3)
 - b. “Repent” (3:3)
 - c. “Obey” (3:5)