



revelation

[a•po•ca•lypse]

Revelation

The Things That Are
Letters to the 7 churches
Sardis

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Intro: Dead churches are those that exhibit the following characteristics:

1. They maintain a soft hermeneutical position,
2. They deny the literal Millennial reign of Christ,
3. They deny Israel's prophetic destiny,
4. There's an absence of a Biblical devotional life,
5. There's a de emphasis of 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

The Resurrection is the foundation of our Christian experience.

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The City

- One of the oldest.
- Very wealthy due to Gold being found in the Pactolus.
- Failed to be watchful and diligent. As a result it was a city of Failure;
 1. Pretensions unjustified,
 2. Promise without performance
 3. Appearance without reality
 4. False confidence that heralded ruin,

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The Church

Nothing in scripture tells us when or by whom it was founded.

There is no mention in the letter of:

1. Persecution,
2. false doctrine,
3. False teachers, or,
4. Immoral lifestyle

They didn't need a doctor to cure them of their ills, they needed a mortician. They were Dead.

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A. The Correspondant:

1. Title of Christ taken from John's vision in chapter 1.
2. The phrase, "seven spirits of God" refers to the completeness or fullness of the Holy Spirit.
3. The number "7" also refers to perfection in scripture.

Isaiah gives us several characteristics of the Holy Spirit in **Isaiah 11:1-2**.

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B. The Concern:

1. No commendation, only condemnation.
2. The phrase, “I know your works” speaks to Christ’s omniscience.
3. That their works were not ‘satisfactory’ to God shows they had no relationship with Him.
Matt. 7:21-23.
4. They looked good to the community, but were like stuffed animals in a museum. Dead!

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C. The Council:

There are five steps given to restoration:

1. Wake up; pay strict attention to your circumstances.
2. Strengthen the things that remain.
3. Remember the truth of the Gospel
4. Keep, or put into practice the truths they knew.
5. Repent.

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D. The Promise to Overcomers:

- A.** They will be clothed in white garments;
 - 1.** White stands for purity,
 - 2.** Garments stand for character.
- B.** Their name remains in the book of life
 - 1.** Their eternal security is secure.
 - 2.** They are introduced as family to God.

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Conclusion

Sardis was called out for their lack of watchfulness and diligence. We need to be watchful for:

1. The wiles of the devil, 1 Peter 5:8
2. Temptation, Matt. 26:41
3. His coming, Matt. 24:42-43; Mk. 13:37; 1 Thess. 5:6
4. False teachers, Acts 20:28-31.

We need to be diligent about:

1. Confronting sin in our midst, Matt. 18:15-20
2. Maintaining separation from the world, John 17:15-16
3. Not being complacent in our walk, Phil. 3:12-14.