### **BE A BRINGER**

"40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus...." John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;...." I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK Keith & Mariella Mills | Scotland

> PRAISE - Praise the Lord for the recent salvation of Tim, who came to church unsure of his salvation. After sharing scripture with him, we was assured that he was saved.

- Tim has already shared Christ with neighbors and they have also been saved.

- Pray for more open doors to share the gospel and invite people to church.

- Pray for our health and for the Lord to continue to sustain Keith and Mariella.



Handout: 09/08/24

Study Date: 09/15/24

# Sardis: Growing In Life

Sardis was a busy, bustling church that had a great reputation of being lively and full of vitality. They probably engaged in many social activities in their community. They gave an appearance of being alive through a bustling programme of good works and an impressive schedule of charitable deeds. However, these were not done through the power of the Spirit, nor were they done for the glory of God. Their good works were not perfect in God's sight, because they were carried out in the flesh. Their good works were done for the gratification of the soul and were not acceptable by God.

Despite their standing in society and their prestigious position in the community, this Christian church was spiritually dead. They had fallen into a narcotic sleep and were presenting no spiritual challenge to the enemy. Outwardly these folk professed their Christianity, but inwardly they did not possess the truth in their heart.

The congregation at Sardis practiced grand religiosity but did not live a spiritual life. They maintained a form of godliness but denied its power. And so in His letter to Sardis, the people were challenged by the Lord to be alert and strengthen whatever remains, that is about to die.

Watchfulness, urgency, and eager attentiveness to the truth of the gospel, was the watchword for the people of Sardis. The shocking truth was that faithfulness, godliness, and brotherly love had almost been eliminated from their lives, and Christ's strong criticism was a warning to these spiritually slumbering Christians, to wake up and to reverse the lamentable spiritual demise into which they had fallen - if the church was to survive.

The true gospel of Christ, which was once the foundation upon which this church was built, had been eroded, and John was instructed to urge these believers at Sardis to strengthen whatever remained of the faith that had once been delivered to these saints. The church was sick unto death, but yet there was still a little life left and, in this urgent appeal, John implores them to stir up their spiritual resolve and reignite their flickering flame of faith.

The fruitful believer is one that abides on Christ and grows in grace. He rests in the light of God's love, trusts in His Word, walks in spirit and truth, and faithfully carries out the works that God has before prepared for them to do - in His strength. Works, whether good or bad, that are not accomplished through the strength of the indwelling, Holy Spirit can never be perfect; indeed, they are identified as filthy rags to the Lord

Resource: dailyverse.knowing-jesus.com

### **KEY VERSE**

Revelation 3:2 (NKJV) "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God."

## WEEKLY READINGS

#### Monday: Rev. 3:1a; Rev. 3:6; Zechariah 4:6; Acts 2:1-2

#### Be Filled With The Holy Spirit

- 1. Who is it that has the "*seven Spirits of God*" in Revelation 3:1a? Who is speaking to the people through the "*Spirit*" in Revelation 3:6?
- 2. Zechariah 4:6 states; "*Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.*" As believers what is this verse teaching us about the <u>source</u> of our power?

Tuesday: Rev. 3:1b-2a; Rev. 3:3b; Romans 13:11; James 1:22

#### Wake Up! Face The Gaps

- 3. Revelation 3:2a sends a clear message to believers that we need to "*be watchful*" of ourselves. What will happen if we refuse this command?
- 4. "For now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed" according to Romans 13:11. Why is this verse telling us it's "time to awake out of sleep"?

#### Wednesday: Revelation 3:2b; Colossians 2:6-7

#### **Strengthen What Remains**

- 5. What opportunity is Revelation 3:2b giving us to improve upon our "works"?
- 6. Colossians 2:6-7 conveys that as we are now in Christ that we must "*walk in Him, rooted and build up in Him.*" What strengths must YOU build on?

#### Thursday: Revelation 3:3a; II Timothy 4:3-4; Lam. 3:40

#### **Remember And Obey The Bible**

- 7. Revelation 3:3a calls us to "*remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.*" What might you need to repent for right now?
- 8. What does II Timothy 4:3-4 warn us of in the days to come? What will happen to those who "*turn their ears away from the truth*"?
- 9. Why is it crucial that we obey the command in Lamentations 3:40? How often are we taking time for self evaluation? What happens if we don't?

#### Friday: Revelation 3:4-5; I John 5:4-5; Matthew 10:32-33

#### **Overcome By Faith**

10. What incredibly important advise is Jesus giving to the people of Sardis in Revelation 3:4? What does He go on to promise those who "*overcome*"?

- 11. What is the "key" factor according to I John 5:4 for us to claim victory and be counted as ones who have "*overcome the world*"?
- 12. Matthew 10:32-33 clearly presents the two choices our perfect God has given to us in life? How can we use this verse to witness to unbelievers?