

IV. REMEMBER AND OBEY THE BIBLE

“Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.” Revelation 3:3a

Apply what you already know and turn from sin.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” 2 Timothy 4:3-4

“Let us search out and examine our ways, And turn back to the LORD;” Lamentations 3:40

V. OVERCOME BY FAITH

“You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.”

“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” Revelation 3:4-5

The picture of one who overcomes is dressed in white.

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

“Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” I John 5:4-5

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also Confess before My Father who is in heaven.”

“But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 10:32-33

GROW IN LIFE

7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION: GROWING IN CHRIST

Sardis: Growing In Life

Pastor Steve Reynolds

Introduction:

A. Imagine if our church received a letter from Jesus Himself. Would His words bring commendation...or...correction? We do, in fact, have such letters.

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

“and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.” Revelation 1:10-13

The book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, reveals letters that Jesus wrote to seven churches. These words are just as relevant today as in the first century.

B. In this teaching series- Seven Churches Of Revelation- we’ll read Jesus’ seven letters to seven churches. We will learn how to grow in Christ and experience His blessings.

Aug 18

Ephesus: Growing In Love

Aug 25

Smyrna: Growing In Suffering

Sept 1

Pergamos: Growing In Truth

Sept 8

Thyatira: Growing In Purity

TODAY

Sardis: Growing In Life

Sept 22

Philadelphia: Growing In Evangelism

Sept 29

Laodicea: Growing In Passion

C. **TEXT:** Revelation 3:1-6

HOW TO GROW IN LIFE

SARDIS was a wealthy city. A hub of commerce located at the junction of five main roads. They produced much gold and many gold coins. It was also known for its manufacture of woolen garments. This lucrative city even had a large gymnasium!

It was also a military center located on a plateau about 1500 feet above the main roads. This allowed them to form a significant fortress. The city was called, "Sardis, the impregnable."

Sitting on top of a strategically built lofty plateau with access to gold and other natural resources they enjoyed a secure and prosperous lifestyle. Unfortunately, overconfidence and complacency slowly led to their downfall. Over time this strong city slowly lost its splendor.

Also, sadly the church became like the city. This once strong church was dying. Alive in name only. It reflected what Jesus said in Matthew 23:27-28, "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*"

I. BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

"¹And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:'"
Revelation 3:1a

"⁶He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."
Revelation 3:6

The Holy Spirit gives you power.

"⁶So he answered and said to me: 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, 'Says the LORD of hosts.'"
Zechariah 4:6

"¹When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting."
Acts 2:1-2

II. WAKE UP! FACE THE GAPS

"¹...I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

²Be watchful..."
Revelation 3:1b-2a

"³...Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you."
Revelation 3:3b

You must be honestly aware of the gaps between your reputation and reality.

"¹¹And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to Awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."
Romans 13:11

What are some gaps in your life?

"²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
James 1:22

III. STRENGTHEN WHAT REMAINS

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

Build on what is going well in your life.

*"⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as You have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."*
Colossians 2:6-7