

DEAD OR ALIVE?

Letter to the Church at Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)

I. Christ's Rebuke to the Church

know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.
(Revelation 3:1)

What characterizes a dead Christian?

What causes deadness in the life of a Christian?

- 1) Fleshly thinking (Rom. 8:7)
- 2) Fleshly living (Rom. 8:13)
- 3) Flesh dependence (Gal. 3:3)

What is the cure for deadness?

- ➔ **Revival ("life again"):** We need the quickening breath of the Holy Spirit
But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (Romans 8:11)

II. Christ's Warning to the Church

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. (Revelation 3:2-3)

- A. Be watchful (Matt. 24:42-44).
- B. Strengthen the things that remain (John 15:4-5).
- C. Remember what you have received and heard (James 1:22).
- D. Hold fast and repent (1Thess. 5:4, 6).

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III. Christ's Reward to Overcomers

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. (Revelation 3:5)

A. You will be given white raiment.

- The white robes are the righteous *acts* of saints (Rev. 19:8). Only faithful believers will be given white robes.
- White robes are the required wedding attire for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-8; see also Jesus' parable in Matthew 22).

B. Your name will not be blotted out of the book of life

➔ *Two usages of the Book of Life in Scripture*

1) In reference to Salvation (eternal life)

- Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:20)
- And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)

2) In reference to Sanctification (eternal reward)

- Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. (Exodus 32:32-33)
- He that overcometh....I will not blot out his name out of the book of life (Revelation 3:5)
- And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. (Revelation 22:19)

C. I will confess your name before the Father and His angels.

- Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 10:32-33)
- *It is* a faithful saying: For if we be dead with *him*, we shall also live with *him*: If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us: If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. (2 Timothy 2:11-13)

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