

THEME: ARE YOU READY?

TOPIC: MESSAGE TO THE SARDIS CHURCH

TEXT: REV 3:1- 6

Introduction

Jesus told the Sardis Church that He was aware of their incomplete deeds in the sight of God which required repentance, but also assured them that the holy ones would spend eternity with Him.

As we ready ourselves for Christ's imminent return I would like us to pick some lessons from His message to the Church in Sardis.

Jesus' message to the Church in Sardis shows:

- God is aware of everything we do
- Our deeds are important before God
- The holy will spend eternity with Christ
- It is possible to lose one's salvation

What can we learn from the message to Church in Sardis as we ready ourselves?

1. God is aware of everything we do (V1)

This verse emphasizes God's omniscience. We can't hide our deeds from God. We can hide from people but not from God.

Prov 15:3

God is quoted in **Jeremiah 23:23-24**, "Am I only a God nearby," declares the Lord, "and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the Lord. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord.

2. Our deeds are important before God (V2)

Jesus was concerned about the Sardis Church that their deeds were incomplete in the sight of God. Why did He want them complete?

a. Good deeds can't save us, but they are the evidence of our salvation.

Eph 2:8, Eph 2:10.

This is why we should endeavour to do good deeds not only before God, but also before people. **2Cor 8:21, Acts 24:16**

b. Our good deeds will cause others to praise God. Mat 5:16, 1Pt2:12

c. One of the bases for rewards will be our deeds. 2Cor 5:10

In light of that truth therefore, let us do good works, for which we shall receive crowns.

3. The holy will spend eternity with Christ (V4) cf Jn 14:1-3

- In our attempts to ready ourselves, we should repent (Not just confess) of every known sin and also avoid all presumptuous (willful) sins. Ps 19:13
- Walking with Christ in eternity is dependent upon keeping ourselves holy and the Bible invites us to be holy. 1Pt1:16
- Without holiness no one will see the Lord(Heb 12:14, Mat 5:8), because God is holy and pure no one whose life is tainted with sin will spend eternity in His presence. Heb 7:26 , 1Jn 3:1-3

4. It is possible to lose one's salvation (V5) cf Rev 2:7, Mat 24:13

As we ready ourselves, it's imperative to note that there's a possibility of not overcoming. If it wasn't so, Jesus wouldn't have said, "he who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white". They have not soiled their clothes, so they will walk with Him.

This just means those whose garments will be defiled, will not walk with Him, will not be dressed in white, because they will not be worthy.

Therefore, the teaching that, "once saved ever saved" is a doctrinal error.

Conclusion

Since we can't hide from God, let us choose to do the right things at all times to their completion before God for rewards, as we pursue holiness so that we may spend eternity with Christ. Anything short of this will be an eternal loss.