

What Jesus Says To A Dead Church

Seven Letters To Seven Churches, part 5
Pastor Bob Johnson, October 6th, 2019

Jesus' Fifth Letter: Revelation 3:1-6

How Jesus is described:

(v1a)

- His relationship with ... (Isaiah 11:2, Rev 5:6)
- His relationship with ... (John 21, 1 Peter 5)

How the church is described:

(1b)

Their Reputation doesn't match R _____.

(Revelation 3:5, Matthew 10:32-33, Revelation 12:11)

(Matthew 4:19, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

A Prayer For A Fresh Start: (v2-6)

“Lord, help me to S _____ the gaps.”

(Revelation 3:2a, Romans 12:3, Romans 10:17)

“Lord, help me to S _____ the gaps.”

- R _____ what remains.
(v2b) (Revelation 3:4)
- R _____ & R _____ to where you started.
(v3a) (Ephesians 2:1-10)
- R _____ false securities.
(v3b)

“Lord, help me to S _____.”

(Revelation 3:4-6, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to week 5 of our Fall small group season at GPC. It is our prayer for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships in the coming weeks. This small group season will be for 7 weeks and wrap up the week of Sunday October 20th. In the weeks ahead, we will continue to discuss some insights from the first few chapters of the Book of Revelation where seven letters are written to seven different churches. These letters can provide insights in helping us grow closer to God and to each other and make a more positive impact with our lives in the world around us.

Getting Started:

Before we get started with some questions related to last Sunday's message, let's catch up a bit. What is something encouraging or not so encouraging that happened in the last few days that you can share. Let's take a little time to celebrate with one another and support one another.

In this fifth letter written to the church in Sardis, the people are described as fallen asleep and in need of a wake up call. Looking back, where have you fallen asleep that you didn't plan to? What prompted you to wake up? Have you ever been 'asleep at the wheel'? Have you ever slept thru a sermon? (don't answer that).

Last Sunday, we saw a video of some folks getting baptized. If you have been baptized, share your experience with the group.

Bob shared a few things that being baptized symbolizes. What are some ways baptism represents one's salvation experience?

Last Sunday we heard that sometimes our reputation (how people perceive us) doesn't match our reality (how we are really feeling). When have you been in a situation where others thought you were a lot more calm than you actually were?

One of the insights from Revelation 3:1-6 is the importance of releasing false securities. When have you felt you had plenty of time to do something or fix something ... and sadly, you discovered that you should have addressed the concern a bit sooner? When have you been surprised when you thought something was more secure or stable than it really was?

As we start our Bible study time, read again the letter to the Church in Sardis. (Revelation 2:18-29)

From this passage and last week's message, what was helpful or encouraging to you? Was there a question that you thought of after listening to the message we can discuss together?

Digging Deeper:

In Bob's message, he focused in on how we as Christ followers are called to be Ambassadors for Christ which includes being sharers of the gospel. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

How would you define the 'ministry of reconciliation' and the 'message of reconciliation' God has assigned to us as Christ followers?

Honestly, how comfortable do you feel in regards to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others? What can help you become more comfortable and capable in sharing with others?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. How comfortable was Paul in sharing the gospel? What prompted Paul to share about His faith in Jesus Christ with others?

The following is a summary of the Gospel message: The Bible says that God created us and wants a personal relationship with us. But rather than responding to God, we have chosen to go our own way. The Bible calls going our own way 'sin' and says that sin separates us from the God who loves us. Because He loves us and didn't want us to stay separated, God sent Jesus to pay for our sins. He made himself to be a bridge back to God by his death and resurrection. Now that Jesus paid for our sins, the Bible says we have two choices. We can continue to go our own way or we can choose to be forgiven and 'repent' which means to turn around and come home to God and his way of doing life and enjoy eternal life with him.

What verses come to mind as you read the above summary? Would you add anything to this gospel summary?

Read and reflect on the following verses from Romans that summarize the gospel:

Romans 3:23, 3:10-18, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9, 10:13, 5:1, 8:1, 8:38-39

In Revelation 3:3, the church in Sardis was encouraged to remember and return to where they started regarding their faith.

As Christ followers, it is possible to 'get used to the gospel' and no longer appreciate the truths that once brought so much gratitude toward God.

What are some truths about God and or any Biblical truth that may seem 'basic' even 'simple', that we can reflect on and be encouraged by again?

One of the passages Bob referenced last Sunday regarding truths that, if we are not careful, we can take for granted is in the book of Ephesians.

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and reflect on the truths Paul shares.

What insights do you see from this passage?

Let's take some time to pray in regards to the truths that are found in this passage.

Before we wrap up, let's share some prayer requests and pray for each other. We are better together!