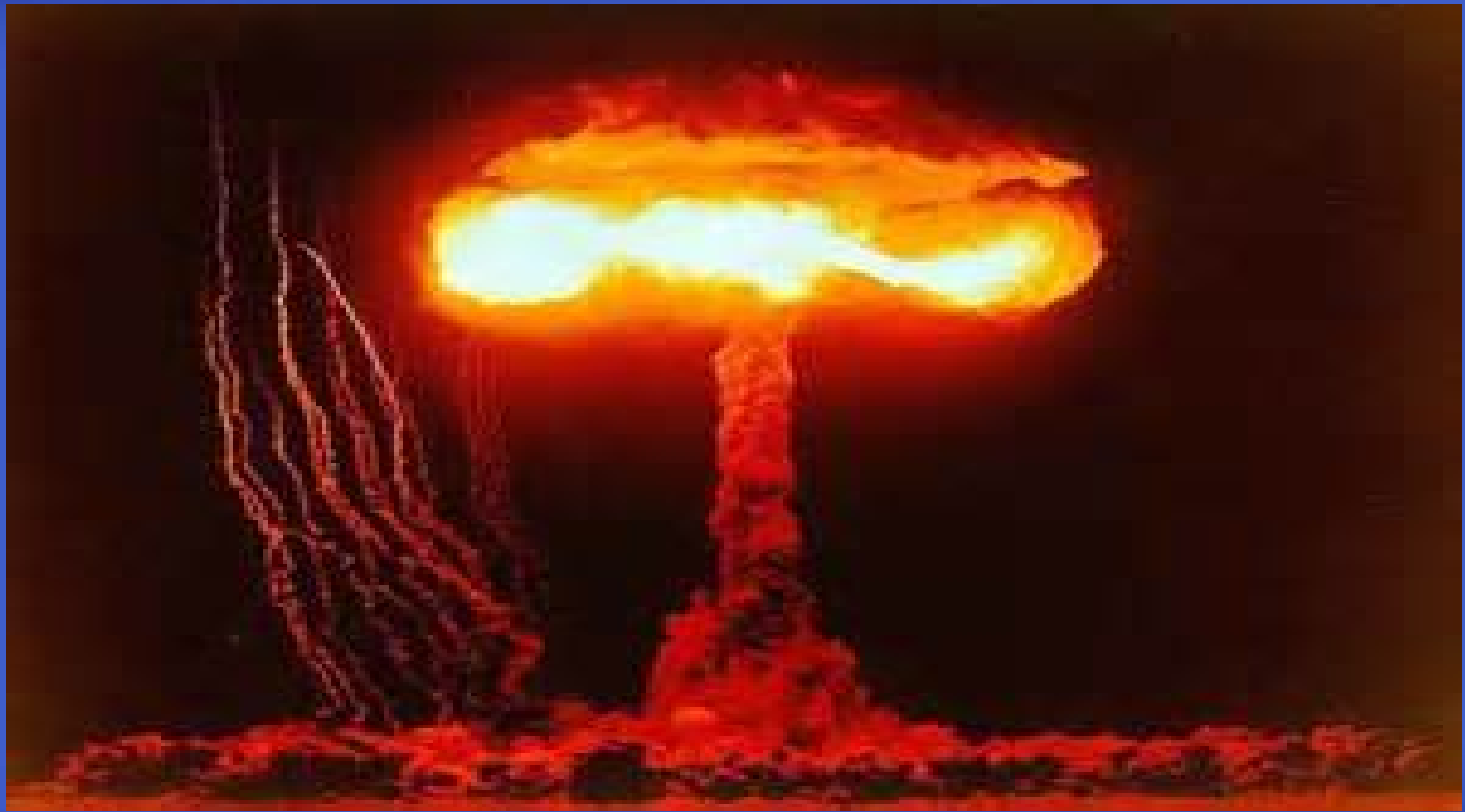


# *A Study of the End Times!*

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*



# **Our Journey Through the Book of Revelation!**

**The Text:**

***Revelation 3:1-6!***

**The Title:**

***Our Lord's Message to the Church: Then & Now!***

**The Theme:**

***Revealing of the Things  
Which Must Shortly Come to Pass!***

# **The Outline of the Book Revelation 1:19!**

## **CHAPTER ONE**

**Write the things which were!**

## **CHAPTERS TWO and THREE**

**Write the things which are!**

## **CHAPTERS FOUR through TWENTY-TWO**

**Write the things which shall soon take place!**

# The Church at Ephesus: Lacking Church!

The city of Ephesus was the largest city in Asia Minor. Its seaport brought to its shores the world's great treasures. And travelers arrived daily to visit the Temple of Artemis. Because of the wealth of this city, the church's love for Christ was soon replaced by the lust for the world's treasures.

1. The Complaint – You've Lost Your First love!
2. The Correction – Remember and Repent or be Removed!
3. The Christ – Is Walking Among the Seven Lamp Stands!



# The Church at Smyrna: Loyal Church!

**This city was once one of the world's great cities before being destroyed during the Hellenistic Wars. Because of attacks on cargo ships in the Aegean Sea, Emperor Domitian will rebuild the city and place a naval fleet there. The result will be complete allegiance to Rome and the persecution of Christians.**

- 1. The Complaint – None!**
- 2. The Correction – None!**
- 3. The Christ – Giving the Crown of Life!**



# The Church at Pergamum: Licentious Church!

This city was the capital of Asia Minor. Located on a mountain top, 1000 feet above the valley below, it was viewed as the city of the gods and temples were built to honor the gods of Rome. The greatest of these temples was the Temple of Zeus, which was one of the worlds seven wonders. The city was a center for education, medicine, and idol worship which soon affected the church of Jesus Christ.

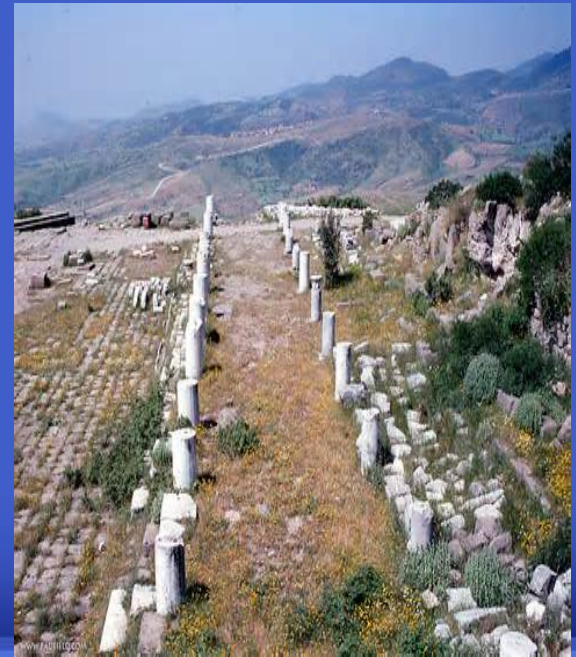
1. The Complaint – Acceptance of Worldly Influence!
2. The Correction – Repent of I'll Make War with You!
3. The Christ – Holding a Two Edged Sword!



# The Church at Thyatira: Lax Church!

This city was a small town located in an out of the way place. Its claim to fame was the honesty and hard work of its people. Because bargains could be found there, daily tours were offered from the cities of Pergamum and Sardis. This church's problem was its willingness to follow the woman Jezebel.

1. The Complaint – Tolerant Jezebel's Influence!
2. The Correction – Repent and Hold Fast!
3. The Christ – Eyes of Fire and Feet of Burning Bronze!





# The Church at Sardis: Lifeless Church!

**This city of Sardis was once considered to be one of the greatest cities in the world. At that time it was the capital of the fabulously wealthy kingdom of Lydian. The most famous king to rule Lydia was King Croesus who was at that time the wealthiest man on earth.**

- 1. The Complaint – Dead Despite Reputation of Life!**
- 2. The Correction – Repent! Strengthen What Remains!**
- 3. The Christ – Has the Seven Spirits and Holds Stars!**





# The Map of the Seven Churches!



# Today's Sermon Outline

## The Church at Sardis!



1. (3:1a) The ASSEMBLY is in Sardis.
2. (3:1b) The AUTHOR is the Lord.
3. (3:1c) The ADMONITION is for their failure.
4. (3:2-4) The APPEAL is to “Wake Up!”
5. (3:5-6) The ACTION that is expected.

While we don't know the specifics of what caused the church at Sardis to become spiritually dead, we do know some of the potential killers of the church today!

## **The Worship of the Past!**

A church that is constantly looking at its past is one that is on its way to dying. Learning from the past and living in the past are two different things. Learning from the past leads to healthy change. But living in the past robs the church from its future.

The result is death!

While we don't know the specifics of what caused the church at Sardis to become spiritually dead, we do know some of the potential killers of the church today!

## **Greater Concerns About Cosmetics Than About Character!**

How ministry is carried out is important! But when finding the best method becomes more consuming than developing the believer's character, paralysis creeps in. This is the formula for failure.

While we don't know the specifics of what caused the church at Sardis to become spiritually dead, we do know some of the potential killers of the church today!

## **Love For Tradition Over Love For Christ!**

Change is a reality of life. And while change for the sake of change is not good, churches that are bound to tradition are likely to slowly sink into the sea of irrelevance. Believers should be willing to die for doctrine (God's truth) while living in a culture that is constantly changing.

While we don't know the specifics of what caused the church at Sardis to become spiritually dead, we do know some of the potential killers of the church today!

## **Loosing The Desire For Evangelism!**

Another sure way to kill a church is to turn it into a closed community that focuses only inward and not outward. Evangelism is one of the sparks that preserves the flame of love for Christ. When it is allowed to burn out, the fire dies. Closed doors breed suffocation.



**In the passage before us this morning, Jesus gives four steps, that if obeyed, will breath live into the church!**

## **Wake Up!**

**When the believer becomes self-centered and spiritually sluggish, he no longer realizes his spiritual condition. Here Jesus calls for believers to open their eyes and evaluate their walk with Him. We have been called to reflect the image of our Savior.**

**In the passage before us this morning, Jesus gives four steps, that if obeyed, will breath live into the church!**

## **Strengthen The Remnant!**

**There were a few individuals left in Sardis who still desired to place Christ first in their hearts. Here Christ exhorts us to build upon those who remain faithful, those who desire to seek and apply His will.**

**In the passage before us this morning, Jesus gives four steps, that if obeyed, will breath live into the church!**

## **Apply The Truth!**

**Its one thing to recall the truth of the faith, its another thing to apply it. In the verses before us this morning, Jesus challenges us to put our faith into practice. It is to be used to shape our thinking, direct our goals, mold our attitudes, channel our emotions, and guide our behavior. The goal of the Gospel is not to inform, but to transform.**

**In the passage before us this morning, Jesus gives four steps, that if obeyed, will breath live into the church!**

## **Change Our Direction!**

**Finally, Jesus called for the believers in Sardis to repent. Unless sin is met with repentance, nothing will happen. Without the changing of the heart, choosing to recommit oneself to Christ-centered living is useless and ineffective. Today believers enter and exit the church as if it had a revolving door attached to it. Perhaps this stands as proof that a repentant heart is not found in many today.**

**Before leaving, lets take time to focus on three promises given by Jesus to the believers who remain faithful!**

## **Everlasting Righteousness!**

**When a person first becomes a follower of Jesus, the Lord begins to purify him. This is the purpose of trials and will continue until the day when he stands before God. On that day the believer will be stripped of sin and clothed in righteousness forever.**

**Before leaving, lets take time to focus on three promises given by Jesus to the believers who remain faithful!**

## **Everlasting Citizenship!**

**When our faith is committed to Jesus alone, we have the assurance that He will never blot out our names from the book of life. Our citizenship in heaven is forever secure.**



**Before leaving, lets take time to focus on three promises given by Jesus to the believers who remain faithful!**

## **Everlasting Affirmation!**

**Christ further promises that our loyalty to Him while on earth will be rewarded handsomely when we arrive in heaven. We will get a glimpse of this when we study chapters 20-22 in the book of Revelation.**

**So Stay Tuned!**

# The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ!

