

Revelation 3:1-6 – “The ‘Looks Can Be Deceiving’ Church”

- I. **7 letters – 4 down, 3 to go...**
 A. 7 real churches in Asia Minor; not the _____ churches in Asia Minor...
 B. Churches 3 & 4 – indictments on churches more concerned with being tolerant...
 C. Church 5 – may be the worst of all! Reminds us – look beyond the surface, go deeper...
- II. **Revelation 3:1 – Church 5: Sardis?**
 A. It's next in the sequence – from Thyatira – southeast (mostly south) _____ miles...
 B. Had a much storied history – at one time capital of ancient kingdom of Lydia.
 C. Believed to be virtually impregnable – overrun & captured by King _____ of Persia...
 D. Became most important city of Persian Empire in region of Asia Minor...
 E. Passed from Alexander to Seleucid to one day captured by Antiochus the Great...
 F. Known for its precious metals as well as production of wool.
 G. Religiously – practiced pagan worship, especially of Cybele; had magnificent temple to _____.
- III. **Revelation 3:1 – The Speaker?**
 A. Has the 7 Spirits of God and the 7 stars...
 B. 7 stars are the angels or human emissaries of the 7 churches...
 C. 7 Spirits of God – reference in _____ 11:1-2 or Zechariah 4:1-10 or completeness & perfection...
 D. Jesus presents Himself as the One who is in charge over the churches – He has these...
- IV. **Revelation 3:1: What Jesus Knows About Them...**
 A. They have a good reputation; the community thinks highly of them...
 B. The One who knows them perfectly also know that despite this, they are _____...
 C. How different from church in Smyrna who in tribulation & poverty was told – you are _____!
 D. Did not warrant persecution or spiritual attacks – they were inoffensive to its neighbors...
- V. **Revelation 3:2-3: Jesus' Advice – 5-fold Instruction**
 A. First – your deeds are not complete in the sight of God; gained human approval but not God...
 B. Second – He offers some hope; some things remain...hope comes from those who are _____.
 C. #1 – Wake up! Look what's happening around you; don't be complacent.
 D. #2 – Build up what little is left, that which is still alive. Focus on these before it's too late...
 E. #3 – Go back to your beginning & remember what you received and heard.
 F. #4 – Keep it; hold fast to it; cling to Christ, cling to the _____ of Jesus Christ...(live & obey it)
 G. #5 – Repent...repent of sleeping & slumbering; repent of being _____ yoked...
 H. If they do these things then judgment of God upon them will be averted. If not, judgment comes!
- VI. **Revelation 3:4: To The Few**
 A. Jesus knows the name of those who have not soiled their garments...
 B. Such as these will walk with Jesus in white – unending _____ with Jesus...
 C. Clothed with His _____ righteousness and truly made righteous, conformed to His image...
- VII. **Revelation 3:5: To the Overcomers...3-fold promise**
 A. Overcomer – 1 John 5:4; 1 John 4:4 – overcomers only overcome because of Jesus...
 B. #1 – all such as this are promised to be clothed in white garments like verse 4.
 C. #2 – Not _____ name from the book of life...
 1. Does this teach one can lose his/her salvation? Actually just the opposite...
 2. The overcomer is sealed, is known – nothing will prevent you...
 D. #3 – Will confess your name before God the Father & His angels (Mt. 10:32 & _____ 12:8)
- VIII. **Heed These Things: Lessons from the Church in Sardis...**
 A. Difficult passage – 2 Tim. 2:19; Matthew 15:13; _____ 8:38-39 – Salvation secure...
 B. Dead churches abound; not all who say they are Christians are really saved...
 C. We must stay a place where people _____ the Lord Jesus, enjoy being together & praising Him...
 D. Must stay alert, be zealous, continue to build on the gospel & cling to it & _____ of any straying...
 E. Remember – we start off dead & God makes us alive: by grace through faith in Jesus Christ...
 F. Our reputation among men is unimportant if it is not matched by good reputation before _____

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