

PASTOR: Kip McCormick

DATE: June 23, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up

SERMON: The Smokescreen Church (Sardis)

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:1-6 (NASB)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 9:7-8; Galatians 5:19-23; Revelation 20:15; Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 5:1; 1 John 1:9; John 3:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 12:8



MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: Just as God knows our hearts, He knows His Church. What we see and Jesus sees could be two different things.

SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- Dead church: Spiritual reality of being completely ineffective and utterly useless.
- Living on their past instead of building on it and looking to future
- When a church sleeps, the enemy creeps in. The enemy is apathy
- Be a producer, not a consumer.
- Coming like a thief is not a reference to the second coming of Christ.
- Soiled garments = stained character.
- G-O-S-P-E-L: G: God loves us and wants a relationship with us. O: Our sin separates us from God. S: Saving ourselves isn't an option. P: Paying the price of sin, Jesus died for us and rose again. E: Everyone who repents and believes in Him and only Him as Lord and Savior has eternal life.
- White robes: purity and commitment.
- Pure and Committed: Fruit of the Spirit vs. the Fruit of the Flesh
- Book of Life: A symbol of our permanent security with Christ, a set of names of those who will live with God forever.
- A Christian is a person who has fully trust in in Jesus Christ as the only Savior and therefore possesses the Holy Spirit.
- A Christian cannot lose his/her salvation. Danger – Big Church Words to follow:
- A Christian is a new creation. (2 Cor 5:17)
- A Christian is redeemed. (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- A Christian is justified. (Rom 5:1)
- A Christian is promised eternal life. (John 3:16)
- A Christian is marked by God and sealed by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- A Christian is guaranteed glorification. (Romans 8:30)
- Two “whatabouts”: 1) The Christian who lives a sinful unrepentant lifestyle; 2) One who rejects the faith and denies Christ. Jesus said that not everyone who calls themselves a Christ follower really is. (1 John 3:6; 1 John 2:19; Matthew 7:16)
- In Sum: Those who remain faithful to Him are promised future honor and eternal life.
- Challenge: Self-examination (individually and as a church).

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

- Have I fully surrendered my life to Jesus Christ or am I just “playing church”? (If not, do so today)
- Am I a producer or a consumer?
- Am I growing in my relationship with God? (Discipleship, from studying to serving)
- Am I winking at any habitual sin in my life and taking God’s grace for granted? (if so, repent and move forward)
- Do people outside of church recognize me as a man or woman of faith? (Be godly, not goofy)
- Is there life change going on around me because of how I live my life for Christ?

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP (NLF):

- If NLF was taken out of this world, would people notice?
- Where is there life change happening? Where is some decay and death occurring?
- Are we resistant to change (music, worship, teaching methodology, serving within the walls, outreach techniques) as we accurately teach and live out the unchangeable gospel message?
- Are there places of “us four no more” in NLF or are we open to anyone walking through the doors to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- What are we doing to build God’s kingdom within the walls of NLF? And, outside the walls of NLF?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Review the material as a group and discuss key points with today’s teaching, especially the challenge questions.

Seven Churches of Revelation



SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

Eliyahu Lizorkin-Eyzenberg, Israel Bible Center (multiple books and commentaries); **Michael Heiser** (Naked Bible Podcast; multiple books); Life **Application Study Bible** Commentary, Revelation; **John MacArthur** (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); **Gotquestion.org**; **Grant R. Osborne** (Revelation Exegetical Commentary); **Chuck Swindoll** (New Testament Commentary – Revelation).