

JULY 31, 2022

CHURCH OF CHRIST



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....6:00 p.m.

Minister, John Keith

(304) 266-9027

WELCOME!

We invite you to all of our services.

“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT SARDIS

INTRODUCTION: Revelation 3:1-6

1. Origin of city unknown
2. Obadiah may refer to Sardis in vs. 20 calling the city, “Shepharad”
3. Grk mythology prevailed; many legends RE: King Midas, Croesus—magnificent temple dedicated to Artemis (Diana), also main deity of Ephesus.
4. Wealthy, known for decadence, political corruption, luxury, apathy, and immorality.
5. Establishment of church unknown—perhaps when Paul was in Ephesus for 3 yrs.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE COUNSELOR (3:1a).

- A. The Angel of the Church—the representative messenger (*aggelos*), eldership (?).
- B. Jesus Identifies Himself as:
 1. He that hath the Seven Spirits—7=perfection, the perfect Holy Spirit (1:4).
 2. He that hath the 7 stars—the messenger/angel of each church
 3. As such, Jesus held the destiny of the church in His hand (1:20).

II. THE CHASTENING (3:1b—2).

- A. “I know thy works” (1b).
 1. “Know”, full, complete knowledge, fullest extent. Christ omniscient (Jn. 2:24; 21:17).
 2. “Works” labor, to exert one’s power, be active
- B. Have a reputation of being alive, but really are dead (1c).
 1. Sardis not as glorious as it had been, yet reveled in its former glory, thus was Arrogant & self-sufficient.
 2. Enjoyed a glowing, vibrant reputation of a hard-working church (1 Sam. 16:7).
 3. By whom was such a reputation held?
 4. Seemingly satisfied with her own apathetic and self-congratulatory condition; **EX:** Pharisee Luke 18:9-14.
- C. Though their deeds are far from being right in God’s sight, evidently, a spark of life remained (2).
 1. “Be watching”—vigilant, as a soldier on guard duty.
 2. Their works were not perfect, “fulfilled” (Mt. 5:17)
 3. Jesus says, “No! Don’t quit! Get up and finish what you’ve started!” Good starters/lousy finishers (cf. Gal. 5:7).

III. THE COUNSEL (3:3).

- A. Remember—be mindful of, fix the thoughts upon
 1. Receiving/hearing the Gospel of Christ / salvation
 2. The design of which was to help them rekindle their former zeal in Christ
- B. Retain—“hold fast” (Heb. 10:23; Rev. 2:4-5).

- C. Repent
 1. The instant we recognize spiritual problems, repentance is the priority, the next logical step—change.
 2. Repent of actions undone which caused this church to be on life-support.
 3. If we can get one to truly repent, won't have to convince them to be baptized; they'll know its necessary **EX**: Acts 17:30; 2 Pet. 3:9.
- D. Regret.
 1. If repentance does not follow, Christ will come upon them as a thief — very ominous—nothing good would happen at Christ's punitive appearing.
 2. "If not watchful". Being watchful not just about eyes opened, also being active in Lord's service.

IV. THE COMMENDATION (3:4).

- A. Had not defiled garment—taken no part in Pagan worship/worldliness/or otherwise engaged in habitual sin.
- B. Those wishing to live in purity/righteousness have been given everything necessary to do so—1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
- C. "In white". Purity, victory
- D. These ones are "worthy". Suitable, qualified.
 1. Not worthiness by our own merit, but imputed/accounted (**Rom. 4:20-25**).
 2. We stand *as though* we are worthy being redeemed by the blood of Christ – (Eph. 1:7; cf. Col. 1:14).

V. THE CHALLENGE (3:5-6).

- A. Their Bodies Attired in White (3:5a). defiled garment replaced w/ white (purity, victory) back in fellowship (redeemed to) w/ Christ.
- B. Their Names Announced in Heaven (3:5b—6).
 1. Not blot out his name (5b). by apathy, in peril of having name removed from the "Book of Life" (Exo. 32:32-34; cf. Psa. 69:28; Mal. 3:16; Heb. 12:23; Lk. 10:20; Phlp. 4:3; Rev. 20:12).
 2. God can and has changed His mind—Hezekiah (Isa. 38:5).
 3. If God would never change His mind, should we still be a praying people?
 4. Christ will *confess*—publicly declare—us to God (Mt. 10:32; cf. (Rom. 10:9-10; 12:1-2; 1 Jn. 1:7).
- C. He Who Hears.
 1. Everyone with the faculty of hearing/understanding must heed Christ's word—give the strictest attention
 2. Must make personal application which implies personal responsibility.

CONCLUSION:

1. Cannot simply go through the motions—the right actions from the right motive.
2. We started well; we must go on unto perfection (Heb. 6:1). We do this by:
 - A. Being watchful—paying attention
 - B. Remembering why we started and Who enabled us—Christ
 - C. Holding on the faith insistently and repenting when we falter.
 - D. And by keeping ourselves unspotted from the world (Jas. 1:27).

Welcome! To our visitors! We are thankful for your presence. Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the collection plates.

TODAY'S LESSONS

AM: The church of Christ at Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)

PM: Transformation of the Gentiles (Eph. 2:11-22).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Suzie Horton** is recovering from COVID.
- **Linda Steele** is now in room 131 at *Astoria*. She continues to improve.
- **Randy Yost** continues to suffer from A-fib and will have a cardiac ablation on August 14th.
- There will be a **potluck** after morning services on August 14th. **Phil and Darlene Greer** will be visiting with us that day.
- Thanks to all who made time to support our *Summer Series*. It was a rich study, and I am confident you were blessed by this study of the Sermon on the Mount.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ Please inform **John** of any changes to the prayer list, or directory.
- ❖ Remember our library.

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution (Budget)
40	56	35	29	\$ 1687 (\$2,420)

IN OUR PRAYERS: Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Cathy Jackson, Bruce & Kim Johnson, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Carol Mitchell, Linda Steele, Helena Tewksbury, Jean Whitley.

SHUT-INS:
Debbie Jones,
Nancy Love,
Randy Yost

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: **Debra Bates-Phillabaum, Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Rachell Cook** (Angela Herald's friend), **Tiffany Endly** (Jerri Mackie's niece), **Bob Henthorn** (Laura Jamiel's dad), **Trudy Kerby, Colleen Kiester** (Mo Smith's sister), **Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), **Tim Potts** (Joyce Starrett's nephew), **Kellie Price** (Richard Mayo's cousin), **Addy Reed, Rodney Reeves** (Erica Cunningham's father), **John Rockhold, Wilma Roe, Sidney Suttles** (Diann Bachmann's friend), **Bob & Marge Watson, Ken Wiley, Ukraine** and remember to pray for **one another**.

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psalm 139:14).