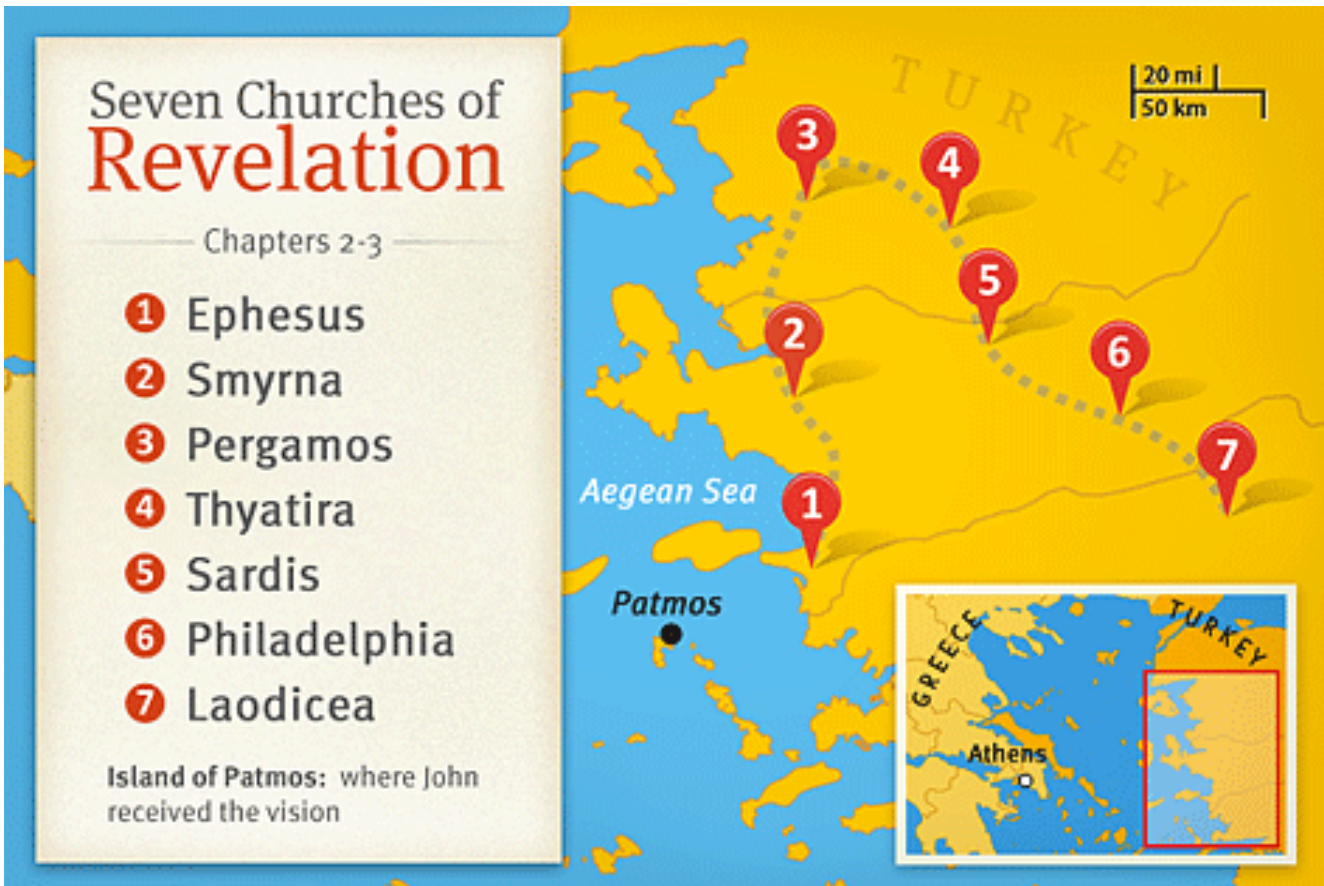




DISCIPLESHIP UNIVERSITY AT
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
PROP 4500: REVELATION

Part VII: Message to Sardis – Reality

THE CHURCHES OF ASIA



BACKGROUND: CITY OF SARDIS

- Sardis had been a great city in ancient times, serving as the capital of the kingdom of Lydia. It was a well-fortified citadel that sat upon cliffs, and it also had very fertile land because of the river valley that it was situated near.
- It sat at the intersection of five major roads, and as such was a commercial and industrial center.
- The ruler of Lydia in the 6th century BC was King Croesus. He was also known by another name: _____. What was he famous for?

- Croesus (Midas) was overthrown by the Persian king Cyrus in the mid-6th century BC. The city was destroyed by the Greeks in 499 BC and in 334 BC it surrendered to Alexander the Great without a battle. Antiochus the Great captured the city in 214 BC and then in AD 14 it was destroyed by a great earthquake. The Emperor Tiberius helped the city rebuild by remitting its taxes for five years.
- This city's greatness was in its distant past.
- Besides this message from Christ, not much is known about the church in this city.

CHARACTERISTIC OF CHRIST

There are two characteristics of Christ found in this message (v. 1):

- First, He holds the _____ spirits of God.
 - Who are these? Where else have we heard this description?

- Second, He holds the _____ stars.
 - Who are these?

COMMENDATION

This is one of the harshest messages, but Jesus notes one commendation to the church at Sardis (v. 4): there remain some in Sardis who have not _____ their garments.

- We find here the doctrine of the _____.
- What are some examples of this doctrine in Scripture?

- How does Christ describe these faithful believers?

- There are many times when we feel as though we are alone, that we are the only ones who are taking a stand for the truth. How does the idea of the remnant bolster your faith in these situations?

CONDEMNATION

Christ has only one condemnation for the church at Sardis, but it's a devastating one: though the church looked _____ it was really _____ (v. 1).

- How might this have looked?
- This condition is often called _____ Christianity or _____ Christianity.
 - What is meant by these descriptions?
 - How does a church slip into this condition? How can we avoid this?

- Jesus says to the church at Sardis, “I have not found your works _____ in the sight of my God” (v. 2).
 - First, we must recognize that nothing escapes God’s notice, but we often think we can hide things from Him. How might we change this attitude in our lives?

 - Second, it appears that the believers in Sardis were more interested in pleasing _____ than in pleasing _____. Jesus sees through their reputation, though, and says that though they are producing works, they are not complete. What does Jesus mean by this? I Samuel 16:7

- Does the church at Sardis seem to suffer from false doctrine?
 - It would seem that instead “_____” sin had permeated the church. Numbers 32:23, Hosea 8:7. How do these passages apply to this idea?

- What is the terminology that the world uses to describe people of a church like the one at Sardis?
 - Does the church have _____ today?

- What happens to a church when its members are so labeled?

CORRECTION

Jesus offers five corrections:

- First, Jesus tells them to “_____!” (v. 2) Who in the church do you think this command was given to? Why?

- Second, Jesus tells them to “_____ what remains!” (v. 2) (Cf. Romans 1:11 and Acts 18:23)
 - When it comes to our spiritual growth, it is not _____.

 - Should a believer leave a church that he or she perceives to be “dead”?

- Third, Jesus tells them to “remember, then, what you _____ and _____!” (v. 3) What is being referred to here?

- Fourth, Jesus tell them to “_____!” (v. 3)
- Finally, Jesus tells them to “_____!” (v. 3)

CONSEQUENCE

- If the church at Sardis refuses to follow these five corrections, Jesus says that He will “come like a _____ in the night, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you” (v. 3).
- When Jesus says that He is coming “against” someone, what does that mean?

A WORD TO THOSE WHO CONQUER

- The one who conquers will be clothed in _____ garments (v.5).
 - What does this color symbolize in Scripture?
 - How are these garments made this way?
- The one who conquers will have their names _____ recorded in the _____ of _____ (v. 5).
 - How does one have their name recorded here?

- Not only are our names recorded, but Jesus says that He will _____ our names before the Father and the angels. How does this encourage your faith?

V. 6: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”