

## *Mt. Lebanon Church.*

Gods Grace

Grace and the Revelation of Christ as seen through the Heart of John - Part 4

The Church at Sardis

2020

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you have run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the bible study.

### **John 1: 1 – 18.**

The church at Sardis was an active church, but, it was by reputation only. Mankind, looked at the church and saw it to be spiritual, and full of life, but Christ saw through their deceptive work, and declared the church spiritually dead. The church did not depend upon God, nor did they follow after the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Revelation 3: 1,**...you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead....

So, we will start off with a question.

**Luke 6: 46,**...but why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and not do the things that I say....

To answer this question, means dealing with our attitude toward our obedience to God, and his word. We cannot as believers express Christ as Lord with our words, and then do what ever we want to do in the world. Our actions should match what we profess, we must practice what we preach. The church at Sardis professed Christ, and publicly declared that their lives were committed to him, but their actions, did not match their profession. True believers obey the word, not only in their profession of faith, but also in their works. Just because we have the word, read the word, and know the word, does not mean that we are wise in the word.

They were a dead church due to disobedience.

So, what does God want us to do.

**John 6: 29,....**this is the work of God, that you believe in him, whom he sent....

We believe in him, because we have the life of Christ within us, so, therefore we must do the good works that God has prepared for us to do. This work of the Lord cannot be achieved through meaningless profession.

We must:

**Proverbs 3: 5,....**trust in the Lord with our whole heart, lean not on our own understanding, in all our ways acknowledge him, and he will direct our paths....

This is so that God may accomplish his works, through us, to his praise and glory. Therefore, believe in Christ, quit trusting in ourselves, and trust in him, stop relying on our own performance, for it is imperfect, and then rest in Gods perfect work.

**Matthew 15: 6 – 9,....**you have made the commandment of God, of no effect, by your tradition....these people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me....

We as believers are instructed to abide in Christ, which means, spiritual maturity in Gods word. Anyone who does not abide in Christ, discards their opportunity to bear good fruit, and therefore their spiritual maturity. So then, we are saved, but, unproductive, and do not bring glory to God.

**Isaiah 29: 13,....**the Lord said....

Using words that come out of our mouth without putting spiritual maturity and works with them, does not impress God. The truth of our salvation means that we must:

2 Timothy 2: 15,.... study to show thyself approved unto God....

This means that, we take account of what this word of God means, and we believe in it.

**Revelation 3: 2,....**be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain....

Sadly, in this church, and in the body of Christ in part today, faithfulness, godliness, and love have been eliminated in the lives of some of those that have believed unto salvation. Christ warning to all is to wake up, to reignite the flame of faith, that was once was so great in us as to save our souls from eternal hell.

**Revelation 3: 3,....**remember....hold fast and repent....

God be praised, that he does not turn away from us when we fall to deception, and, re aquire this imperfect attitude, that replaces our faith in the Lord with a false boldness, and a position of worldliness in our hearts. This allows us to become complacent in our Christian life. A complacent Christian, never grows spiritually, but always dwells upon their past successes in their Christian life, always stating the excuse that, their complacency is due to the fact that we have never done it that way before, so, we must hold fast and repent.

**Hebrews 10: 23,....**let us hold fast the confession of our hope without waivering, for he who promised is faithful....

To profess hope in Christ is to be saved, to hold fast to this hope is to live according to it. To live according to it, means to be an example to others though our spiritual works. Christ, who is the fulfillment of Gods will for us, in truthfulness by accepting him, we might resist the temptations of the world that distracts us from the will of God. We should embrace our confidence in Christ and his saving grace, so that others may see his goodness within our life.

**Revelation 3: 5**,....he who overcomes....I will not blot out his name from the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father....

A promise from God, to the saints, that are secured in salvation, knowing that our name will never be erased from the book of life, once it is entered therein. Our salvation is a divinely given eternal possession.

As Christians, who have overcome spiritual death through salvation, we should not be fruitless in our spiritual life, due to abiding in the world, instead of abiding in Christ. This behavior deprives us of our life in Christ, and in the power of God. We must learn to grow in grace, and mature in our faith, permitting the Holy Spirit, to lead us, and guide us in our Christian walk with Christ, because only through him, our we worthy. We must remember that we cannot live forever on the pridefulness of a few spiritual accomplishments, we must continue to diligently work for the good of the kingdom of God.

Let us pray

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

*Tim Hughes*

304.376.3177 – Text or talk.

[Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com](mailto:Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com)

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>



