



★ PRIORITY MAIL ★

WEEK 5 | SARDIS | REVELATION 3:1-6

Inspection – “What does it say?”

According to verse 1, what was the reputation of the church of Sardis?

What was the truth?

What was found unfinished in verse 2?

What were some of those at Sardis wearing? (verse 5)

What is the “book of life” in verse 5?

What three things should we do according to verse 3?

Observation – “What does it mean?”

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3. How is God’s judgement like a thief?

What should this mean for us?

How is it possible to be an active church and still be spiritually dead?

How does “in the sight of my God” in verse 2 send a message?

What do we learn about the need for Christian growth in verse 5?

Read Matthew 10:32. In comparison, what is meant by

“acknowledge that name before my Father” in Revelation 3:5?

Life Application – “What does it mean for me?”

Pray each day for the strength to keep life pure from all sin.

Take a walk in a memorial garden and consider the weight of being spiritually dead.

Make personal mental notes on how verse 2 applies to your deeds.

Write your own letter to a friend needing encouragement to live a holy life.

Read Matthew 25 in preparation for the return of the Son of Man,
who will come in His glory.

Meditation – “What does God say?”

Galatians 6:1

Matthew 7:2-5

James 5:19-20

1 Corinthians 5:1-5

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Isaiah 33:22

Psalms 96:13

2 Peter 2:9

Supplication: What Can We Meditate?

Pilgrim's Progress on the Fallacy of Talkative

Talkative is a character in *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan who is known for his love of talking about spirituality, but whose life is not affected by his faith:

Faithful: Well, I see that saying and doing are two things, and hereafter I shall better observe this distinction.

Christian: They are two things, indeed, and are as diverse as are the soul and the body; for as the body without the soul is but a dead carcass, so saying, if it be alone, is but a dead carcass also. The soul of religion is the practical part: "Pure religion and undefiled, before God and the Father, is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." This Talkative is not aware of; he thinks that hearing and saying will make a good Christian, and thus he deceives his own soul. Hearing is but as the sowing of the seed; talking is not sufficient to prove that fruit is indeed in the heart and life; and let us assure ourselves, that at the day of doom men shall be judged according to their fruits. It will not be said then, Did you believe? but, Were you doers, or talkers only? and accordingly shall they be judged. The end of the world is compared to our harvest; and you know men at harvest regard nothing but fruit. Not that anything can be accepted that is not of faith, but I speak this to show you how insignificant the profession of Talkative will be at that day.

Faithful: This brings to my mind that of Moses, by which he describes the beast that is clean. He is such a one that parts the hoof and chews the cud; not that parts the hoof only, or that chews the cud only. The hare chews the cud, but yet is unclean, because he parts not the hoof. And this truly resembles Talkative; he chews the cud, he seeks knowledge, he chews upon the word; but he divides not the hoof, he parts not with the way of sinners; but, as the hare, he retains the foot of a dog or bear, and therefore he is unclean.

Christian: You have spoken, for aught I know, the true gospel sense of those texts. And I will add another thing: Paul calls some men, yea, and those great talkers, too, sounding brass and tinkling cymbals; that is, as he expounds them in another place, things without life, giving sound. Things without life, that is, without the true faith and grace of the gospel; and consequently, things that shall never be placed in the kingdom of heaven among those that are the children of life; though their sound, by their talk, be as if it were the tongue or voice of an angel.

Faithful: Well, I was not so fond of his company at first, but I am as sick of it now. What shall we do to be rid of him?

Christian: Take my advice, and do as I bid you, and you shall find that he will soon be sick of your company too, except God shall touch his heart, and turn it.

Faithful: What would you have me to do?

Christian: Why, go to him, and enter into some serious discourse about the power of religion; and ask him plainly (when he has approved of it, for that he will) whether this thing be set up in his heart, house, or conversation.