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And They Shall Walk With Me

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"AND THEY SHALL WALK WITH ME."

Rev. 3:1-6*

INT: FULL appreciation of Christ’s letters to the churches of Asia hinge on realizing how much He loved all people. Deep love.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Rich Young Ruler. Mary, Martha, Lazarus

I. CITY OF SARDIS.

Location: 100 mi. E. of Smyrna & Ephesus.
Capital: of province of Lydia. King Croesus.
Value: Commercial center; land fertile. Wool.
Religion: Temples of Cybele, Artemis, Zeus.
Decline: Because battle field of Greeks-Roma

II. LORD HAD LITTLE COMMENDATION FOR SARDIS.

A. Know works. V. 1. Past. Not many now.
B. Hast (had) a name. Living church! Then!
1. Was Spr. robust and vital & active.
2. No division within, persec. without.
3. Decaying into forms and hypocrisy.

III. PA man (elder) almost a maniac about reputation and name of that cong.
Today: Member says rigi mortis in!!

V. 4. C. A Few Names who have not defiled garments

III. HIS CAUTIONS AND CRITICISMS IN LOVE.

A. Art Dead! V. 1. Not all. V. 4. On Edge.
B. Be watchful. (Awaken!) Think, look, act.
C. Strengthen what remains. V. 2. Put new
love & energy into Chr. graces in you.
D. Works not perfect before God. v. 2.

Coasting on a name! Fewer & less meaning

IV. HIS LOVING DIVINE COUNSEL.

A. REMEMBER four things: v. 3.
Count your blessings, Be grateful.
2. What heard. Wonderful story of
love. Return it. I John 5:3.
3. Hold fast. Stop the decline. IC15:58.
Best defense is good offence.
4. Repent. Change your mind. Go to work.

Hear what Spirit says. V. 6. Only hop
V. PENALTY FOR DISOBEDIENCE.
Rev. 2:5 Ephes.
1. Will come upon thee. (Remove candlestick.)
2. As a thief!

VI. REWARDS FOR OBEDIENCE.

1. Overcome and be robed in white. V.5.
   III. Early Christians baptized in white garment as sign of purity & victory.
2. They shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 
   III. "OPERATION WE CARE" only one means of proving our love and devotion to Christ.
3. NOT blot name out of book of life. v. 5.
   Rev. 20:12-15. III. Cities kept registers of citizenry. When died, removed name.
4. Confess your name before my Father and the angels. v. 5. Matt. 10:32.

VII. LESSONS TO US TODAY:

1. Grace is Glory in the bud. Eph. 2:8-10. God's grace, mercy and forgiveness inspires us to give our very best to Him.
2. Church's reputation only as good as its zeal, devotion, love and soul-saving.
   III. "OPERATION WE CARE" only one means of proving our love and devotion to Christ.
3. Church has been given all it needs to do the job right and well. II Pet. 1:3; II Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 1:3; Jas. 1:17.
   Church work; not always easy, convenient, or enjoyable, but IS vital, important and necessary. May we give it our very best.

INV: IF THE LORD HAD HIS WAY: TONIGHT.......

1. Every non-Christian obey the gospel. A.2:38
   And walk with Jesus in white robes.
2. Every back-slider REPENT and pray for forgiveness and walk with Jesus.
   Acts 8:22.