

12-18-1971

# And They Shall Walk With Me

Wyatt Sawyer

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## Recommended Citation

Sawyer, W. (1971). And They Shall Walk With Me. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/wyatt-sawyer-sermons/917>

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"AND THEY SHALL WALK WITH ME."

*Sardis*

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. Mary Magdalene. Zacchaeus. Matthew. Judas. Gave His life for His church. Acts 20:28. Romans 5:8. Perceive: I J. 3:16.

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

I. CITY OF SARDIS.

*30 S. of Thyatira. 45 N.W. of Phila.*

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-Romans. Destroyed: 15th Cent. by Romans. Now: Sart.

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.

*No opposition!*

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. *usually always true.*

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 *to work.*

*ll. Cyprus - Pavia v. 2. Achaea fell to Antiochus.*

IV. HIS LOVING DIVINE COUNSEL.

- A. REMEMBER four things: v. 3. *Eph. 1:3.*
  - 1. What received. James 1:17. 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.
  - 5. Hear what Spirit says. V. 6. Only hope

"NOTEAR" ®

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V. PENALTY FOR DISOBEDIENCE.

Rev. 2:5 Ephes

1. Will come upon thee. (Remove candlestick.)

*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. *Priests, examiners.*

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 <sup>perpetual</sup> reputation only as good as its zeal, devotion, love and soul-saving. **BASICS.**

★ III. "OPERATION WE CARE" only one means of proving our love and devotion to Christ. *Joy of fellowship.*

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

2. And walk with Jesus in white robes.

Every back-slider REPENT and pray for forgiveness and walk with Jesus.

*Acts 8:22.*

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