

To the Church of Sardis
Revelation 3:1-6

I. The Problem.

1. the works, ministry and testimony of the Church, though active but spiritually dying.
2. the activeness of the Church is not acceptable with God.

II. The Solution. (some exceptions)

1. There are four imperatives to be consider and can be apply to any special situation even today (pandemic) right before the second advent of our Lord and King.
2. The first one is 'strengthen' in which implies and connotates that we have to make the 'love of truth' (basically the word of God, Bible) healthy within the flock to establish mercy and grace of God in the Church by his word *timelessly* applied.
3. Accompanied by the word being watchful and alert what is going on around us especially when the teaching and practices are no longer conformed to the word.
4. Second, 'remember' or bear in mind when we heard and received the gospel with the effectual works of the Holy Spirit in that day of our conversion. It is no longer according to his word, going in the other directions.
5. Third, 'hold fast' to be watchful and keeping the promise of the gospel and grabbed it with confidence, faith and hope with heavenly desires to be saved by Christ alone, with the imputed righteousness of Christ.
6. And the last, which is 'repentance' is the results of our humility, conforming unto the image of Christ even in his affliction and tribulation with an application of the pandemic within us.
So that we will not be surprised but ready and watchful as the phrase 'a thief in the night' was given to us by Christ Himself in such case that is 'unexpected' return is imminent.
7. with some exceptions that there are few still not defiling or keeping the robe of righteousness of Christ unblemish.

III. The Promise.

1. To those people who are keeping the robe of righteousness will be with the Lord.
2. 'he that overcome' (present-participle-active) shall be clothed with the final imputed righteousness of Christ for our Justification.
3. Our name will still be written in the 'book of life'.
4. Jesus, will give and testify our faith in Him as our mediator in His redemptive works.

IV. The Mystery of the Ministry.

'Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.' the first time Jesus mentioned in the gospel (Matt 13:9) and it became complete in the book of Revelation. Rev 3:6 'He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches'

It is the Holy Spirit that makes us hear. By nature we don't have the capability of hearing & understanding except we born again. Born of the Father from above by the Spirit applying the death of his begotten Son. Wherefore, we acknowledge the work & ministry of the third person of the Triune Jehovah in the book of Revelation, in wisdom & understanding and in preaching! Amen!

Application: Extemporaneously preach the Gospel!