

Sunday, 23rd November 2014

Dead or Alive?

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Calvary
Christian
fellowship



Revelation

BIBLE READING

Revelation 3: 1-13

1. A DEAD CHURCH - SARDIS

History of the City

River of Gold...

Reputation: Rich & Impregnable

Earthquake...

Challenge to this Church

- 1. Wake Up!**
- 2. Strengthen what's left**
- 3. Remember and obey what you were taught**

What about us?

2. A LIVING CHURCH – PHILADELPHIA

History of the City

City of Brotherly Love

Earthquake

Town on the site is still “Christian”.

Encouragement to this Church

- 1. I have opened a door for you**
- 2. I will make your enemies bow at your feet**
- 3. I will keep you safe from the time of trouble**

What about us?

3. VICTORY PROMISES

Sardis: White clothes and names remembered

Philadelphia: Pillars and a new name

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

In a family, small group or community

These notes are to help you as a family, community or small group unpack the Sunday teaching. It's a bit unrealistic for a small group to do everything - **so feel free to be selective!**

OPENER

Favourite comedy sketches?

You could nominate a few and vote for one to watch and find it on YouTube. Don't spend all night on this, it's only an opener! Laughter is good for the soul or as Proverbs 17:22 says: "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength."

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Dead or Alive?

- What is a dead church like in practice?
Remind yourselves of lessons from Sardis.
- What is a living church like?
Remind yourselves with lessons from Philadelphia
- Looking back over the first six of the seven churches, what are the qualities that Jesus commends them for?
- What is the most important quality, to Jesus, of His churches?

2. Names in the Book of Life

- Read the other NT references to the Book of Life.

Luke 10:20; Phil 4:3; Heb 12:23; Rev 13:8; Rev 17:8; Rev 20:12,15;
Rev 21:27
- What do we learn about ourselves from these verses?

N T Wright says:

(Jesus) will acknowledge their names before the Father and His angels. To be acknowledged by Jesus Himself will be amazing. To have Him acknowledge us before His Father will be the moment of all moments. Let's wake up before it's too late.

(Revelation for Everyone p32. 2011 SPCK)

3. A new Name

- Read the verse below.
- Do you struggle with a sense of identity? Then check out these verses: Isaiah 43:7; 56:5; 62:2; 65:15

4. An Open Door.... another theme to explore!!!

Revelation 3:12-13

To him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. NIV

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Focus on "Life".

Praise God for it, celebrate life in the here and now, be thankful for every future living moment, pray for new life, for renewal of life, and for eternal life for our family and friends. Rejoice that your names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life!