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Our Purpose

why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

Our Mission

what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

Our Core Values

how we do it

- Worship** - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Connect** - living in community, loving and supporting one another
- Grow** - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word
- Serve** - helping people discover and use their God-given talents
- Reach** - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

Contact Information

Church Address: 4040 Tully Road
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Friday - Sunday: Closed

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August 31
September 1

SEVEN LETTERS REVELATION 2-3

The Letter to the Dying Church, Part 2

Revelation 3:1-7
Pastor Rick Countryman

To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 3:1-7 (NIV)

3 Causes of Death

1. The church at Sardis died because the people weren't feeding on the _____.

(You die spiritually when you aren't feeding on the _____.)

Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it... Verse 3

2. The church at Sardis died because the people messed around with _____.

(You die spiritually when you mess around with _____.)

...You have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. Verse 4

Dear friends, since you are waiting for this to happen, do your best to be without sin and without fault. Try to be at peace with God. 2 Peter 3:14 (NCV)

3. The church at Sardis died because the people couldn't recognize their own _____.

(You die spiritually when you don't recognize your own _____.)

I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Verse 1

How to bring life back to your walk with Jesus

1. Wake up! _____ on the Word of God.

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them [you] a rich and satisfying life. John 10:10 (NLT)

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash. Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)

Listen carefully to wisdom; set your mind on understanding. Cry out for wisdom, and beg for understanding. Search for it like silver, and hunt for it like hidden treasure. Then you will understand respect for the Lord, and you will find that you know God. Proverbs 2:2-5 (NCV)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

2. Wake up! _____ the Word of God.

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it... Verses 2-3

Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. James 4:17 (NLT)

3. Wake up! _____ your disobedience to the Word of God.

Make this announcement to Israel, and say this to Judah: Listen, you foolish and senseless people, with eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear. Have you no respect for me? Why don't you tremble in my presence? I, the LORD, define the ocean's sandy shoreline as an everlasting boundary that the waters cannot cross. The waves may toss and roar, but they can never pass the boundaries I set. But my people have stubborn and rebellious hearts. They have turned away and abandoned me. They do not say from the heart, "Let us live in awe of the LORD our God, for he gives us rain each spring and fall, assuring us of a harvest when the time is right." Your wickedness has deprived you of these wonderful blessings. Your sin has robbed you of all these good things. Jeremiah 5:20-25 (NLT)

Turn away from evil and do good. Psalm 34:14 (NLT)

You who love the LORD, hate evil! Psalm 97:10 (NLT)

...Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Romans 13:14 (NIV)

Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak! Matthew 26:41 (NLT)

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. Titus 2:11-12 (NLT)

Motivating Thought: _____ what your sin did to Jesus. (It cost Him his life.)

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain... 1 Peter 4:1 (NLT)

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Romans 5:6 (NLT)

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8 (NLT)

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 1 Corinthians 15:3 (NLT)

Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. 1 Thessalonians 5:10 (NLT)



Memory Verse

So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God.
Romans 15:17 (NLT)

Monday - Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Romans 12:1-2. Do you ever find yourself asking, Why doesn't God favor me?

What condition must we meet so that our worship is acceptable to God?

What makes one's worship not acceptable to God?

Tuesday - Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Romans 12:3-8.

What is the warning in verse 3?

What is your part in the body of Christ? How do you know?

How do you use the gifts God has given you (verses 6-8)?

Wednesday - Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Romans 12:9-13. How are you at loving others?

Do you serve the Lord enthusiastically, or is it a burden for you?

What steps are you willing to take to have great joy in serving God and people?

What are some things you can do to practice hospitality?

Thursday - Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Romans 12:14-18. How do you treat those who persecute you?

How do you practice living in harmony within your home? At work? With your neighbors?

What are some things you can do to live a more honorable and peaceful life?

Friday - Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Romans 12:19-21. Do you often find yourself seeking revenge?

What command and promise are given in verse 19?

What are some ways you can bless others rather than entertaining thoughts of revenge (verses 20-21)?

Personal Reflection & Application

How has this study helped you to understand your part in the body of Christ?

What can and should you do to strengthen your part in the body of Christ and to use your gifts fully?

Read James 4:17 (NLT).

This week, Pastor Rick challenged you to choose one thing God wants you to do. What is that one thing?

What steps do you need to take to do it?