

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 61

The Letter of Jesus to the Church in Sardis Part 6

Work out that your name will not be blot out from the book of life.

“1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. 4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 3:1-6 KJV)

Jesus in verse 3, told the church ***“Remember”***, ***“3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” (Revelation 3:3 KJV)*** We will continue in this message to study and review the Scripture where we are reminded of what we heard and received, and what God had said unto us in His Word and what He wants us to do for Him.

“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” (Revelation 2:5 KJV) To make yourself ready for the coming of Christ you need to repent of your sins, and go back to do the work that you are asked to achieve for God. Jesus was requesting them to apply what they received in their lives, to hold on it and stand firm on it to be saved. He was asking them to repent. It means to turn away from their wicked ways, to have to turn from sin and wrong doings. *Let us remember our first love and go and do the work of God we were doing before.*

Remember: It is because they were unfaithful that made them not remember the good things they received. They didn't remember because they don't want to pay back the good things they received. They were using the good things of God for their own benefits but they were not willing to pay back to God and to those who taught them and labor for them.

“3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.” Jesus is reminding them of what that they heard and received from teaching. He is reminding them how they reached them with the teaching of God's Word. He is reminding them of the love of God they received. This is how they received and we receive:

1. By the people of God and the prophets of God who suffered to live their lives for God to set an example for us to live the same. Example of those people are Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph,, Job, Moses, Joshua Samuel, David, Isaiah,

Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Ezra, Nehemiah, the apostle of Jesus of our Lord, Peter, James, John, Paul, etc. The life of those people had inspired us to follow God.

2. By Christ who came from heaven, he suffered, and finally his suffering and his agonizing death on the cross for our sins.

3. By the disciples of Jesus who reached us with the gospel of Jesus and what toil they suffered to reach us and evangelize to us. *We need to think how much they labored to reach us and for this reason we need to appreciate what they did, and we do that by obeying the Lord and His instructions. I remember and appreciate the life of the man who reached me with God's message.*

One of those who reached you are the church leaders that the Lord had placed over you who reached you and who will help you to be prepared for the second coming of Christ, ***“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.” (Hebrews 13:7 KJV)*** Here Apostle Paul reminded the Hebrews that they need to remember the outcome of the life of their leaders, those who spoke to them the Word of God and imitate their life and the way they lived for God. ** Let us remember those who gave us the Word of God and let us imitate their lives and how they walked with God and obeyed the call of God in their lives. * As church leaders we need to do what is right based on Scriptures so that people will take heed and follow. Those who are not willing to follow we should not do things to please them. They need to follow Scripture the same way we do.*

Now from such the Lord is explaining to us why the church in Sardis is dead, because of their sins. This church in Sardis, the members of the church were living in sin, and that was the cause of death, and there was no repentance and no rebuking and no close follow up from the leaders over the members. It is different than the church in Thyatira where in that church there were false teachers as ring leaders who were encouraging the members and supporting them to continue to sin against God, while in Sardis there was no one to complete the work of God in a perfect way and deals with sin. Their leaders were careless, complacent and not aware about the coming judgment of God.

“If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” Here Jesus warning them that after this last warning, and last admonition, if they will not wake up and start to watch and observe their lives and repent of their sins, the Lord will come to them in judgment in unexpected time as what happened with Sodom and Gomorrah, as what had happened to Lot's wife, and as what had happened with the rich man in ***Luke 16***. The coming judgment of the Lord will be as the coming of the thief in the night to steal while the people sleep, to bring on them the judgment that they deserve to receive in non expected hour as the coming of the thief, because they refused to repent. This is the same of what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, ***“1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 KJV)*** *Jesus will come on un-expected hour to judge the wicked who left Him, who are indifference toward Him, and who are doing their own and living their lives as they were pleased with.*

What are the sins that were taking place in the church in Sardis? In addition to the sins of ungratefulness, unfaithfulness, laziness, carelessness, sleepiness, and indifference, we will have a clue for these sins when we expound verse 4.

“4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.” (Revelation 3:4 KJV) Here the Lord Jesus Christ, telling to the church in Sardis, that there among them few names, who can be good examples to them, for they did not sin and did not defile their garments with sins. They lived in holiness and no sin in their lives. In fact they walked with Christ. In ***Revelation 14:4-5*** we can read also about those who did not defile their clothes, but continue to walk with God, and from their lives we can conclude the sins in Sardis: ***“4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.” (Revelation 14:4-5 KJV)*** The sins that they did in Sardis, and did not keep themselves pure are the following:

1. Fornication. “These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.” They were virgins. Again we are reminded of the Apostle teaching in ***Acts 15*** and their recommendation against fornication. To be virgin is not only for the women but as well as for the men. The sin that was in that church of Sardis and not dealt with is the sin of fornication, the immorality among non married people. Again I repeat, we need to clean ourselves and our church from pornography, boyfriend, girlfriend, divorce and remarriage, multiple marriages, live-in relationship, a single mother or a single father who is married to another partner not the father or the mother of her or his child.

2. Non willingness to follow Christ: “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.” The church in Sardis wanted to do their own, and fulfill their own will. They were not willing to walk with Christ. In fact there are people who want Christ to follow them. Those faithful in Sardis Jesus promised them, ***“and they shall walk with me in white”***, because they delighted to walk with Christ, as Noah and Abraham walked with God.

3. No purity in heart and their tongues were with guile: “And in their mouth was found no guile.” They in Sardis were having bad thoughts in their hearts and that made their mouths defiled and caused them to speak bad things, ***“18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” (Matthew 15:18-19 KJV)*** What is coming out from the mouth is coming from the heart. Therefore we need to clean our heart from all the sins that we read in ***Matthew 15:18-19*** so what we are going to speak will be with no guile.

4. They refused to accomplish what is right and do the work of God because they were doing their own will: They refused to do the righteous acts of God and they refused to stand for God and to evangelize and acknowledge Him before men. To the contrary of the faithful among them: ***“4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.” (Revelation 3:4 KJV)*** Here, those in the church of Sardis who did not do wrong and who accomplished what is right, they will be rewarded by the Lord. The Lord promised them

that they will walk with Him wearing white clothes; the white clothes are the righteous acts of the saints, ***“8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” (Revelation 19:8-9 KJV)*** ***They and we will be walking with the Lord; this character of them and us to walk with the Lord and go along with Him, will secure to them and to us that they and we will be doing the whole will of God. We will be protected and well provided, as well as they and we will be taken with the Lord when He comes and will be spared tribulation and their and our names will be kept written in the book of life.***

5. They were non willing to evangelize and confess Christ before men: The people in Sardis they were non willing to evangelize and stand firm for the cause of Christ on the Word of God. Opposite to them were the few in Sardis who shall be worthy. They shall be rewarded by the Lord and Jesus shall confess their names before God the Father, as they were willing to evangelize and stand with the Lord and on His Word: ***“32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:32, 37 KJV)*** As we discussed before about the meaning of worthy; they were worthy because they valued the Word of God, they honor more than their relationship with parents or children, and stood for whatever it costs.

These were living the pattern of life that God wants the rest in Sardis to live. Those remnants inside the church in Sardis were good examples for the others to follow and to live. There are some churches where you see the leaders are not doing good, careless and worthless, but you can see there are in such churches people who are following God well. Why? Because the Lord is faithful and because He is faithful He will always keep witnesses for Him for the people to see so they can do and follow. ***Acts 14:17*** speaks that God left Himself not without a witness: ***“Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.” (Acts 14:17 KJV)*** God keep such as witnesses for Him that He is there and man need to heed God. We need to be good witnesses for others to follow Christ and obey His Word.

“5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.” (Revelation 3:5 KJV) Those and we, who will overcome they will receive the white raiment of the righteous acts of saints; their names and our names will not be blot out from the book of life and Jesus will confess their and our names before God the Father and His angels. ***“12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:12, 15 KJV)*** We need to be aware that those who will not overcome and look back and live in sin their names will be blot out from the book of life. There are Scriptures that speak that God shall blot out from the book of life. The word blot out means conceal, hide, cover, eclipse, block, shadow, or obscure.

God said the following to Moses when His people sinned, how he will blot out their names from the book of life: ***“And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.” (Exodus 32:33 KJV) “14 Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.” (Deuteronomy 9:14 KJV)*** The following God spoke against the man who hear the Word of God but refuses to repent, ***“20 The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.” (Deuteronomy 29:20 KJV)***

In ***Revelation 3:5*** it mentioned, ***“He that overcometh”*** *How they and we will overcome? By living without sin, in repentance and to the end, until the coming of Christ or until our lives will end on earth, without fornication, without immorality, without laziness, without carelessness, without sleepiness, with pure heart, with faithfulness and gratefulness, without doing their or our own will and plans.* We overcome, when we are willing to confess and stand for the name of Christ before men, ***“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32 KJV)***

They and we will overcome by doing the work of God with perfection, by evangelizing, and by being a good witness like Lazarus who kept his position at the door of the rich man. Check yourself now and see, Are you a good testimony and witness for Christ? Don't compare yourself with the people's opinion or how you see yourself comparing to the others around you but what the Word of God shows you about yourself then you do.

My dear and beloved: “6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 3:6 KJV) Let us give heed to the message of the Lord that He is sending us to repent and to wake up, to revive, to commit our lives all over again for the Lord to go on and serve Him and do His will. Let us prepare ourselves and those who are with us for the second coming of the Lord.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that warned me and reminded me of your judgment and about your coming and that I need to be ready.

Renounce now all your sins; laziness, carelessness, lack of commitment, keeping your heart non pure, living in immorality, non willing to stand for God, and non willing to evangelize and being bad example to others, etc. Lord forgives me the following sins _____. Lord I commit myself to live the style of life that you wants me to live for you. To live away from sin, and to go and evangelize; Lord I commit myself to set a good example to others that through me the people will know you and see you; the way to Heaven.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word, and repented of their sins, and are willing to live in holiness and be good examples to other until you come to take us, Lord protect them, preserve them and provide all their needs. Lord use their lives to preach the gospel and to bring others to you.

Lord bless us and sustain us as a church. Lord revive us and unite us on your purpose. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the Holy Spirit that we need to go on and serve you. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in Peace with Implementing the Whole Will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 61. The Letter of Jesus to the church in Sardis Part 6. Work out that your name will not be blot out from the book of life. Revelation 3:3-6. Revelation 2:5. Hebrews 13:7. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3. Revelation 14:4-5 Matthew 15:18-19. Revelation 19:8-9. Matthew 10:32. Revelation 20:12. Acts 14:17. Exodus 32:33. Deuteronomy 9:14. Deuteronomy 29:20.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: www.churchofgoduae.com.

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)
ACCOUNT NAME:
RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF
ACCOUNT NO.:
1576003753162014
IBAN:
AE380351576003753162014
SWIFT CODE:
NBADAEAAACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email:
thebread1@gmail.com.

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances,
please be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email:
thebread1@gmail.com.