

Being an Overcomer #8

Church #5: Sardis – the Pseudo Church (Christian in Name Only)

Rev. 3:1-6

How Should Overcomers Respond? (continued)

1. 3:2 - "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die"
2. 3:3 - "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent."
3. **3:3 - "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."**

For some people this could mean that they die an untimely and unexpected death, but in an ultimate sense it means Christ's return. Several times Jesus warns that he will return "as a thief", and that we are to watch and be ready.

Lk. 12:35-40 We are to be like servants who are ready for their lord to return from a wedding. "Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."

Mt. 24:36-44 The last days will be as the time of Noah. Two in field, two at the mill, but only one taken. "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Also like a thief. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Mt. 25:1 - 13 The parable of the wise and foolish virgins. The foolish were unprepared. When the call of the bridegroom came, they still had to get ready, and so missed out. "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

1 Cor. 15:51-52, 58 "We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Thess. 4:15 - 5:6 "... we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (go before) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Promises to overcomers:

1. 3:4 - "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. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment"

The term "garments" is often used in a moral sense. White garments of clean linen speak of the righteousness of the saints, while "defiled garments" obviously speak of lives that are tainted and corrupted by sin.

Job. 29:14 - "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem." This is the oldest book in the Bible, and even then it was known that righteousness was the "clothing of the soul", that it was to hide the shame of nakedness of sin and iniquity.

Rev. 19:8 - (the church as the bride of the Lamb, and the marriage supper of the Lamb) "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."

Rev. 3:18 - "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

The inhabitants of heaven are consistently spoken of as being clothed in white.

Rev. 4:4 - 24 elders around the throne in heaven "clothed in white linen"

Rev. 7:9 - "... a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands"

Isa. 61:10 - we rejoice in God "for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels."