

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

To the Dying Church

Revelation 3:1-6



¹ “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. “ ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. ⁴ Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’



Revelation 3:1



- “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who **has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.**’

**This is may be a
reference to Isaiah 11:2**

Isaiah 11:2

- And the **1] Spirit of the LORD** shall rest upon him, the Spirit of **2]wisdom** and **3]understanding**, the Spirit of **4]counsel** and **5]might**, the Spirit of **6]knowledge** and the **7]fear** of the LORD.



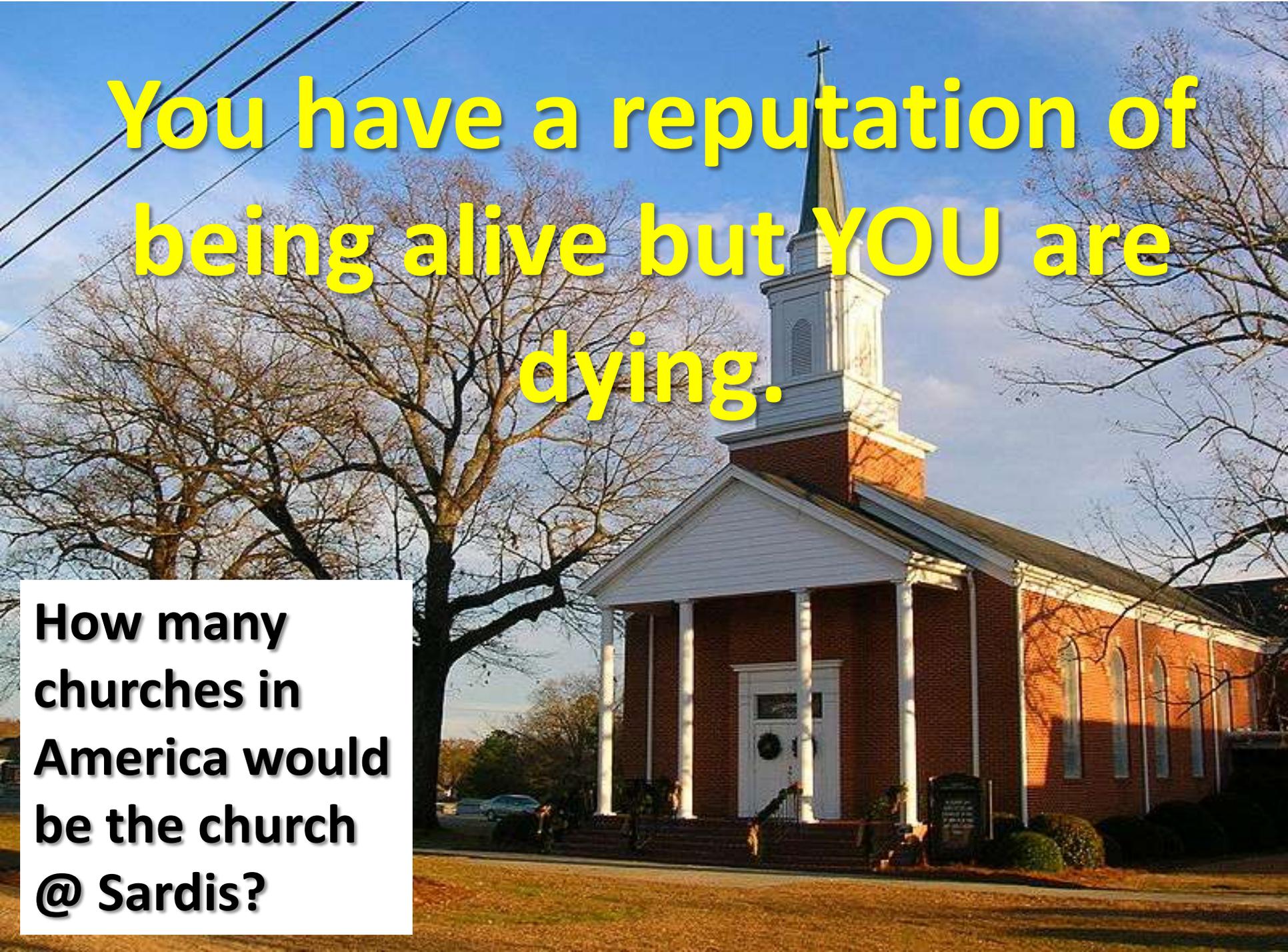
**Remember from
chapter 1 v. 20 that
the 7 stars are the 7
angels or messengers
of the churches.**





Revelation 3:1a

- “I know your works.
- You have the reputation of being alive,
- but you are dead.



**You have a reputation of
being alive but YOU are
dying.**

**How many
churches in
America would
be the church
@ Sardis?**

**What we have going on at
this church is a difference
between reputation and
reality at both the
corporate and individual
level.**



**From the outside looking in
others think church XYZ is
ALIVE!**



**But Jesus knows their works and
this church is at death's door.**



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**How does this
happen?**



When the majority of people who participate in the life of a church are NOT born from ABOVE, blood-washed saints, who adore GOD and the gospel of Jesus Christ the church is on death's door.



Revelation 3:2 (ESV)



- **Wake up then,**



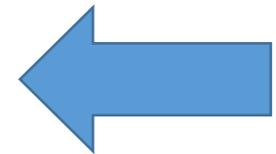
**To the fact that the reputation is different
from the reality.**

**The church at Sardis
is asleep as to the
reality of its current
condition.**



Wake Up to the reality that

- ❑ Worship is a joke
- ❑ The preacher is NOT preaching the Bible



The reality is they have

- Religion
- Routines
- Rituals
- Rote recitations

But need revival.





Do you see what that preacher has in his hands?



Wake Up to the reality that

- ❑ Theological liberalism is alive and well
- ❑ Most people in the church are lost



The Week's Sermon

Exuberant Vegetation!

This Sunday, September 23rd, we welcome back our former pastor, Reverend James Galbreath in our service. Pastor Jim will be speaking on **Exuberant Vegetation!** He will have some pictures with him that shows how he has been keeping busy during his retirement.

NOTE: This year, our summer worship schedule continues through the end of September. In other words, we continue to have **one worship service at 10:00 AM** on Sundays, September 23rd and 30th.



Wake Up to the reality that

**❑ The men of the church are
asleep**

❑ Those who are saved are babies

**Consider
Hebrews 5:12-13**



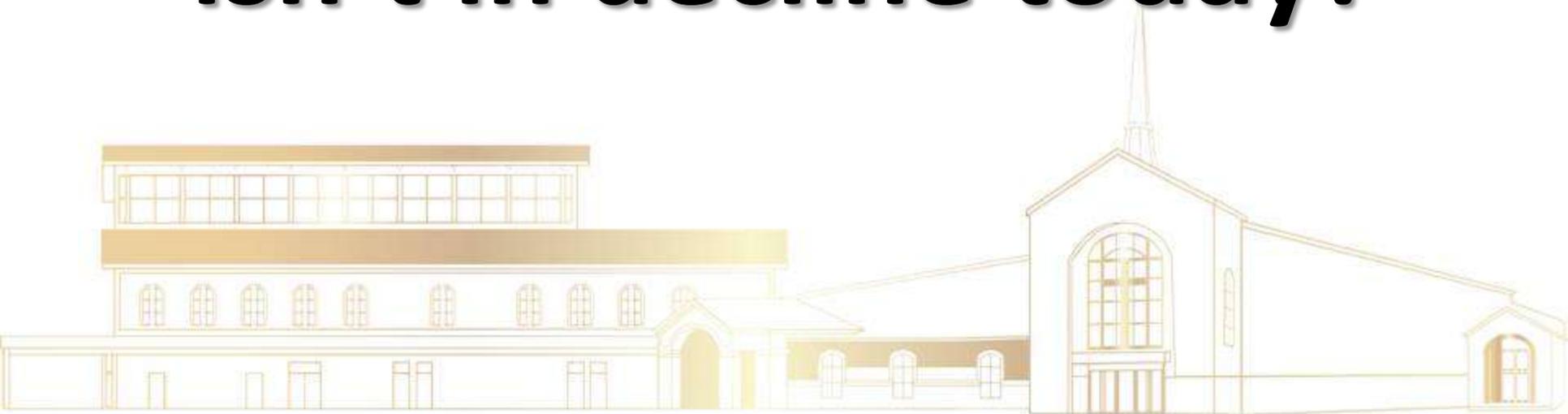
Hebrews 5:12-13

- For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.



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**What mainstream
Christian denomination
isn't in decline today?**



Revelation 3:1



- I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Do you see the dichotomy?

Names

IFB

SBC

UMC

PCA

AME

**Which ones are
dead and which
ones are at
death's door?**



Revelation 3:2 (ESV)



- Wake up then, and strengthen what remains that was about to die, because I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.

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Strengthen
Make Stronger



**What are the things
that need to be
made stronger
in today's church of
Sardis?**



Revelations 3:2



- **Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die:**

**What are the things
ready to die?**

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Make Stronger

#1

**Commitment to the
Authority of Scripture**



**Nothing is more of a
litmus test as to one's
orthodoxy than personal
commitment to the
authority of the Bible as
the inspired Word of God.**



Hebrews 4:12

- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



Andy Stanley wants to unhitch Christianity from the OT.



The Old Testament
was not the **go-to source**
regarding **any** behavior
for the church.

But what did Jesus say about the OT?

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Turn to
Luke 24:27 & 44



Luke 24:27

- And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:44

- And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.



2 Peter 1:21

- For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man,
- **but men spoke from God** as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



**What was Peter
referring to when
he wrote
2 Peter 1:21?**



2 Timothy 3:16

- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,



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How many ways is the church challenging the authority of Scripture?



- **Creation Narrative**
- **Gender Roles and Responsibilities**
- **Created bio sex v. Gender identity**
- **Male leadership in the home and church**
- **Same Sex Marriage**
- **Sexual Immorality**
- **Marriage, Divorce and Re-marriage**
- **Exclusivity of Christ**
- **Sufficiency of Preaching**
- **Primacy of the Gospel Message**



A night-time photograph of the St. Louis skyline, featuring several illuminated skyscrapers and a bridge on the right. The lights from the buildings and bridge are reflected in the water in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue with some clouds.

Revoice

PRESENTS

Revoice 2019

JUNE 5-8, 2019 • ST. LOUIS, MO

Supporting, encouraging, and empowering gay, lesbian, same-sex-attracted, and other gender and sexual minority Christians so they can flourish while observing the historic, Christian doctrine of marriage and sexuality

More Info

**Casting doubt on the authority of
Scripture as the Word of God is often
subtle.**

**And is the way of the devil who
asked Eve: Did God really say that?**

**What is wrong with this next
statement?**





WILSHIRE
BAPTIST CHURCH

IV. **God is Holy Spirit/Sustainer.** The Holy Spirit is the continuing presence of God on earth.

V. **The Bible reveals God.** The Bible contains the specific revelation of God, making clear God's hope for restoration.

V. The Bible reveals God. The Bible contains the specific revelation of God, making clear God's hope for restoration



When I say the
“Primacy of the Gospel Message.”

What do you think I am
talking about?



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Make Stronger

#2

**Christ-exaltation &
Gospel-centeredness**



Consider the reality that nearly everything (virtually all) I know about God, Christ, the Spirit and the Gospel comes from the Bible.

Without the Bible what do I have?



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**How can I be
committed to Christ
and NOT be committed
to the Word that
reveals Christ?**



How does a church end up like Sardis?

A reputation of being alive but in reality it is nearly dead.



- **Salvific Belief = 's Intellectual Assent**
- **Conversion is NOT Emphasized**
- **Personal Holiness is not a Priority**
- **Faith w/o works is Acceptable**
- **Progressive Sanctification is Set-Aside**
- **Perseverance is not a Priority**
- **Church Membership is a Joke**
- **Church Discipline is Dead**

Tolerance is Esteemed



James 2:19

- You believe that God is one; you do well.
- **Even the demons believe**
- —and shudder!



**We must ask and
answer:**

**What does it mean to
believe on/in the Lord Jesus
Christ with all your heart?**



Believing on the Lord Jesus for Salvation is NOT the same as believing that Claritin relieves my running nose.

Salvific Faith includes:

- **Trust & Expectation**
- **Dependence & Reliance**
- **Confidence & Conviction**
- **Adoration & Assurance**
- **Gratitude & Obedience**
- **Self-Denial & Submission**
- **Followship & Faithfulness**



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Make Stronger

#3

**Spirit-filled Exegetical
Preaching of the Word
of God**



2 Timothy 4:2

[Paul told Timothy]

- **Preach the word;**
be instant in season, out of
season; reprove, rebuke,
exhort with all
longsuffering and doctrine.



When the preacher believes that the Bible was inspired by God and is the preserved Word of God good for teaching [doctrine], correction, reproof, and instruction [training] in righteous living he can boldly insist that the people of God give heed to what is being said.

When the preacher loses confidence in the authority of the Word of God—preaching becomes lessons, discussions, encouragement, pithy sayings, helpful nuggets, etc.



2 Corinthians 4:5

- For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.



Acts 20:27

- for I did not shrink from declaring to you **the whole counsel of God.**



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Make Stronger

#4

**Authentic Worship
(Love for God)**



John 4:23

- But the hour is coming, and is now here, **when the true worshipers will worship** the Father in spirit and truth,



**True worshippers are those who
have been BORN from ABOVE.**

**This rebirth—conversion—
transformation make us new
creatures in Christ who love Our
God, His Son, the Spirit and the
gospel and it manifests itself in
worship.**



John 4:23

- But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, **for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.**



**What is the
GREATEST of the
GREAT
Commandments?**



Matthew 22:37-38

- And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
- This is the great and first commandment.



**The absence of worship
and love for God from
the congregation is clear
evidence that the
assembly is at death's
door.**



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Make Stronger

#5

Male Leadership



The absence of male leadership in mainline denominational churches has NOT made them stronger.

There has to be a correlation between the absence of male leadership at the corporate level of the church and the home and the decline of the church and family.



1 Timothy 2:13

- For Adam was first formed, then Eve.



In how many places and situations is 'church' or Christianity as something for women and children?



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Make Stronger

#6

**Iron-Sharpening-Iron
Relationships**



Hebrews 10:24

- And let us consider
**how to stir up one
another** to love and
good works,





Revelation 3:3

- Remember, then, what you received and heard.
- Keep it, and repent.

Revelation 3:3b



- If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Revelation 3:4



- Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.

Revelation 3:5



- **The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life.**
- **I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.**

Revelation 3:6



- He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'