

### “Are You Spiritually Dead”

In the Revelation of Jesus Christ, we read, **1** *To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and 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.'"* (Rev. 3:1-6, NASB).

It's clear from the text that, despite Christ's great work and the efforts of the Spirit after His departure, the congregation in the ancient Lydian capital of Sardis was nearly dead. They appeared to have life because of their works, but inwardly, they were suffering.

Sardis was a city of great importance, about fifty miles east of Ephesus, where five main roads converged; this made it a well-known trade center, though primarily known for the acropolis, manufacturing woolen garments, and as a military stronghold. That was in its glory days. However, as most things do, it declined over the years. And, as most people tend to do, the people would reflect on their fair city. *"Do you remember when..."* or, *"Who used to have that little cart by the city gate years ago?"* We've all done it and will continue to do so. The congregation in Sardis was no different.

They were so focused on who they *used* to be that the saints were unaware of who they had become. *"You have a name...but you are dead."* That is, unfortunately, the state of many congregations, even now. Look just before that. *"I know your deeds."*

Many congregations today look to their deeds and not the spiritual nature of the assembly. Christians by the dozens (or more) look toward events, programs, and all of the extra-curricular elements available – yet they fail to see that which has sustained the Lord's people for generations: the infallible Word of God and the communal love of His people. *"You have deeds...you have a name...but you are dead."*

The Spirit, through the hand of John, says, *"Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain."* Why? Because the things that remain *"were about to die."* Deeds (works) are one thing; the Gospel is something else. The Lord tells them you cannot spend your time focused on worldly devices to bring people close to Me.

Peter wrote, *"He has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness"* (2 Pt. 1:3). We do not believe that, though, not really. That is why we supply additions – because that is what is of interest to people. That is why we see more youth on movie nights and not Sunday nights. That is why parents are more willing to take a few days off work to go to Bible Camp but not a lectureship. That is why those who do work become frustrated with those who do not.

Jesus warns us to *"...remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent;"* otherwise, we are asleep (spiritually dead), and He erases our names from the Book of Life.

Mike



Sympathy is extended to the Rendon family. Esmeralda Flores' husband passed away this week. Esmeralda is Raul Rendon's cousin. Keep this family in your prayers for comfort and peace.

*Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." John 4:10 NIV*

Living in a house without an automatic sprinkler system has been an eye-opening experience for me. It has made me realize just how often grass needs watered. And it's helped me learn the hard way that grass will simply die without a continual water supply.

As I watched the sprinkler the other day, it occurred to me that, much like grass, we *continually* need water. We need watered each and every moment of our lives. We need to draw from God's Living Water—His life. Only as we continually draw from Christ His life and strength will we be able to grow strong amid the scorching heat and searing winds of life.

Are you drawing from Christ, your Living Water, today? Or are you trying to live on your own? God's life and strength awaits you. Let Him water your soul over and over again each day.

From "Encouraging Articles"

### Prayer Requests & Concerns

Dwaine Gough was released from the hospital Wednesday. Everything "seemed" to be going well at that time. His blood numbers are still off. He is better but still appreciates all the prayers for him to stable out and stay where they need to be.

Barry Seymour requested prayers for Butch Gomez. Butch is the brother of Deborah Gomes, a friend of Barry's. Deborah advised that the problem with his heart was found and corrected.

Harry Conner requests prayers on his behalf. It is time for his six-month checkup. He will have an MRI on Tuesday.



Tennessee Liebowitz, Arron Melenderz, and Mariana Liebowitz have all tested positive for COVID. Erica's results indicate negative but she was experiencing some of the same systems.

Jeanette Hernandez, her husband Michael, her son Eric, and her daughter Amara have all tested positive for COVID.

Paul Grace will have a bone marrow transplant on December 22. Keep him and his family in your prayers.

Remember to keep all of these individuals and families in your prayers this week.

### Daily Bible Reading

**December 6** Daniel 6:1-28; 2 Peter 3:1-18; Psalm 119:129-152; Proverbs 28:21-22

**December 7** Daniel 7:1-28; 1 John 1:1-10; Psalm 119:153-176; Proverbs 28:23-24

**December 8** Daniel 8:1-27; 1 John 2:1-17; Psalm 120:1-7; Proverbs 28:25-26

**December 9** Daniel 9:1-11:1; 1 John 2:18-3:6; Psalm 121:1-8; Proverbs 28:27-28

**December 10** Daniel 11:2-35; 1 John 3:7-24; Psalm 122:1-9; Proverbs 29:1

**December 11** Daniel 11:36-12:13; 1 John 4:1-21; Psalm 123:1-4; Proverbs 29:2-4

**December 12** Hosea 1:1-3:5; 1 John 5:1-21; Psalm 124:1-8; Proverbs 29:5-8

**Sermons, Bulletins and More @**  
**freetownroad.com**

**Freetown Road Church of Christ**

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**Service & Class Times**  
**Due to the COVID,**  
**ALL SERVICES HAVE BEEN TEMPORRILY**  
**SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME**

**Minister:**  
**Mike Lane**

**Sunday, November 29, 2020**  
**Sunday Attendance-AM Worship: 60**  
**2020 Budget: \$3,697.75**  
**Contribution: \$2,031.35**

  
Mike Lennard—December 4  
R J Rendon—December 5  
Victoria King—December 6

Ladies Bible Workers  
The LBW will not meet on Tuesday, December 8. The ladies will, however, meet to fill the bags and distribute them on that day at 9:30, if you wish to help.  
If you have any questions, please call Nancy Smith.

**White  
Space**



KidsHelpPhone.ca

**The Family Gram**

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**Freetown Road  
Church of Christ  
2020  
Becoming a Rainmaker**

**Join Our PTP365 Account!**  
Our congregation has subscribed to PTP365, a digital library with thousands of sermons to watch. Our account allows all of our members to join at no cost to you.  
The best way to describe it is a Netflix account for Bible study material. There are thousands of classes available on a variety of topics such as spiritual growth, textual studies, marriage, parenting, and so much more.  
You can learn more about how to sign up at <https://polishingthepulpit.com/welcome-to-ptp365/>

Services at the Freetown Road building have been temporarily suspended in light of the recent information received from the mayor as well as the CDC. The men of the congregation met and voted. The notes have been sent out via email. If you did not receive them and would like to have them, please call the office or Pam Gough.  
Also, please note that the men of the congregation did NOT vote to cancel worship, only the venue has changed. Worship can and should continue anywhere and anytime. Mike's sermon will be online. Also Mike and/or Barry will be at the building off and on if you need to pick up communion or drop off your communion.