

## Revelation Series

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### Resurrection of a church – Part V

**Intro:** The uniqueness of this church is that they were declared to be dead by Jesus Christ Himself. Nonetheless, God told them He could resurrect, not simply revive, but resurrect this congregation. This begs the question, “Can a church become so liberal that it becomes a spiritually dead church?” The answer is, yes!

It is easy to paint people or an organization in a box when it comes to a backslidden church or Christian; that we believe they are beyond help.

1. The Charismatics would say such an individual has \_\_\_\_\_ his or her salvation.
2. We would conclude that such a person was undoubtedly \_\_\_\_\_ saved.
3. It is how we attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ their behavior.
4. Truth is one can get so backslidden they die spiritually, but there is no loss of salvation.
5. The Lord never hints that this church in Sardis has lost their salvation though they were backslidden.
6. As we see in this church, one can backslide, die spiritually and still go through all the motions.
  - a. They have no idea that Jesus is no \_\_\_\_\_ in their midst.
  - b. This is also true with individuals who are spiritually dead.
7. The crux if this church being singled out is how God can \_\_\_\_\_ a dead church or individual.
  - a. Psalm 32 – an eight-step recovery program.
  - b. Psalm 51 – David’s brokenness described.
8. The good news and the bad news,
  - a. Bad news is anyone can backslide at anytime if they aren’t being \_\_\_\_\_. (I Peter 5:8)
  - b. Good news is that anyone can recover and excel, but it won’t be \_\_\_\_\_!
    - (1.) II Samuel 12:9 – 13.
    - (2.) David didn’t quit, he simply knew he would have to work harder to be faithful.
    - (3.) Some of David’s best Psalms were written on the other side of his recovery.
9. God is telling us & readily demonstrates what He can do & will do with a fully surrendered, humble heart.

**This church needed:**

#### VI. A revival of \_\_\_\_\_ – (hold fast) – Revelation 3:3.

- A. This group of Believers had surrendered and abandoned their \_\_\_\_\_ convictions.
  1. What might be some convictions a church may abandon that will be their ruin?
  2. What changes if any have you seen in a church that were detrimental to its spiritual survival?
- B. Without strong biblical convictions we \_\_\_\_\_ towards the world having lost our anchor.
  1. Worldliness & carnality will lead folks to set aside their biblical convictions. (I Cor. 5)
  2. Being \_\_\_\_\_ than the world bothers many believers and so compromise seems a good alternative.

3. Some even use compromise as an \_\_\_\_\_ to satisfy their flesh under the guise of reaching the lost.
4. Such reasoning is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Scriptures and why we are called to be saved & serve.
  - a. We are saved to \_\_\_\_\_ God – I Peter 1:15 & 16.
  - b. We are saved to \_\_\_\_\_ His holiness – Romans 8:29
  - c. It is not our similarity to the world, but the differences in Christ that should attract the lost.
5. If we are so similar to the lost in our thoughts, activities & life, why would they see a need to be saved? We cannot mix unholiness with \_\_\_\_\_ and expect the power of change!
6. We can't mix righteousness with \_\_\_\_\_ and expect anything to change.
  - a. Exodus 11:7; II Corinthians 6:14 - 18
  - b. Leviticus 10:10
7. Powerful leadership within the church can influence \_\_\_\_\_ choices – I John 3, verse 9.
- C. The world will never be \_\_\_\_\_ by a church that compromises its biblical convictions
  1. So many see the 'old fashioned Gospel' as the \_\_\_\_\_, the Gospel isn't the problem, it's a heart problem and it has always been a heart problem.
  2. There really isn't an old-fashioned gospel, as God's Word is always relevant to every generation.
  3. God's \_\_\_\_\_ never changes and His requirements never change nor does His expectations.
  4. Hebrews 13:8 – If Jesus never changes neither does His \_\_\_\_\_, nor does truth change.
  5. The church's responsibility is to build godly \_\_\_\_\_ and not rock groups.

**VII. They needed a revival of \_\_\_\_\_ – (repent) – Revelation 3:3.**

- A. There was a need on the part of this congregation to admit they had been & are currently wrong.
- B. Repentance means turning away from something and towards something.
  1. If I have the opportunity to do wrong again, I chose not to do it, but rather chose right.
  2. They needed a sense of guilt, a broken heartedness over disappointing Christ. (Psalm 51.)
- C. This congregation had lost their \_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy Spirit's leadership & God's Word.
- D. They had lost the wonder of it all.

**VIII. They needed a revival of personal \_\_\_\_\_ – (not defiled) – Revelation 3:4.**

- A. There is a touch of sarcasm here, ("even in Sardis") meaning an unlikely place at this stage.
- B. Here there was a very small group who had not defiled themselves with compromise.
  1. They weren't the backbone of this church; this church is dead!
  2. They had not compromised; they were just there!
  3. There was no word of commendation to this church – only an offer of hope. (II Cor. 6:17).
- C. How long can one remain in a church that is no longer responsive to God's Word, that is dying spiritually.
- D. The fact is a "little leaven leaveneth the whole lump", I Corinthians 5:6.
- E. Why would anyone want to go to a church that doesn't honor Christ the way in which He desires?
- F. Our obligation is not to a spiritually dying church, but to a living Savior!