

## **Dear Church Pt. 9 - Wake up!**

**3 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:**

***These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.***

***5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. Revelation 2:5***

### **4 Characteristics of Dead Churches and Dead Christians**

#### **1. Just going through the motions.**

**Each church and each generation needs their own movement of the Spirit to carry them into the uncertainty of the ministry future.**

***23 Then he (Jesus) said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23***

#### **2. The practice of vague spirituality that is disconnected from Biblical truth.**

**Vague spirituality is incredibly attractive in a world that is increasingly hostile toward moral absolutes.**

#### **3. An incomplete picture of the Gospel.**

***20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Matthew 13:20-21***

**An incomplete picture of the Gospel causes death in the church because it gives people the illusion of salvation.**

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17***

#### **4. Giving the right energy to the wrong things.**

***They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42***

**When we serve people for God's sake, we are given an inexhaustible portion of God's grace, but when we serve for people's sake, it's just exhausting.**

***2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent.***

**We must confess our sins of complacency and self-sufficiency and give control to Jesus where it belongs.**