

Revelation 3:1-6

Spiritual Awakening

Introduction:

David Wells, professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary writes on one of my favorite books in my library: "No Place for Truth," subtitled: "Whatever Happen to Evangelical Theology." Wells addresses in his book how Theology is disappearing. He says, "It's not like the abduction of a child who is happily playing at home one minute and is no longer there the next. This disappearance is closer to what happens in homes where the children are ignored and to all intents and purposes, abandoned. They remain at home but have no place in the family. So it is with Theology in the church. It remains on the edges of evangelical life, but it has been dislodged from its center."

Instead of pastors teaching the Scripture in its theological format, the minister today has transformed into a skilled lawyer, psychologist or a business executive rather than an ordained minister of the gospel.

I. False Reputation v.1

A. Reality of the Church's Spiritual Condition

1. They had the external appearance that they were vibrant church but they were dead spiritually.
2. Dr. Hendriksen comment: Titus 3:5

B. Dead Orthodoxy – Isa. 29:13; Matt. 23:27

II. Need For Awakening – v.2-3

A. What is the cure for the church's dead state? Ans. Only a great spiritual Awakening!

1. Christ rousing His Church through His Spirit
2. The verb "wake up" is a continuous present.

B. The parable of the Ten Virgins – Turn To: Matthew 25:1-12

C. Three Additional Things to Do:

1. Remember – "to act upon"
2. Keep it – Guard the treasure – II Tim. 1:14
3. Repent – Aorist tense indicating, urgency; repent quickly and decisively.

D. Why do these things?

1. Because Jesus is coming like a thief in the night – I Thess. 5:2; II Pet. 3:10
2. Five out of the seven churches, Christ states that Christ is coming quickly (Ephesus- 2:5; Pergamum – 2:6; Thyatira – 2:25; Sardis – 3:3; Philadelphia – 3:11)
3. Three out the seven churches are given a stern warning to repent – (Ephesus – 2:5; Pergamum – 2:16; Sardis – 3:3)

III. Always a Remnant – v.4-6

A. Few faithful, not all have fallen. (apostasy)

1. Unsoiled garments – Jude 1:23
2. Walk with Christ – Isa. 61:10; Rev. 14:4; Eph. 5:27

B. The Book of Life – v.5b.

1. There is no erasing of the elect out of the book of life – Rev. 17:8
2. Erased from the visible church those who were not truly converted to Christ – Isa.

Conclusion:

1. *If the majorities slide, drift and fall away, let it be said of us, To Stay the Course! By remaining faithful. Matt. 7:13, 14.*
2. *Those of us who are true believers in Christ are making our calling and election sure in the midst world.*

