

# THE MOST IMPORTANT NAME

Revelation 3:1-3

## Introduction:

- A. The letter of the church in Sardis emphasizes the word, n\_\_\_\_\_, four times.
- B. The most important name is the name of \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Unfortunately, His name is used by society as a term of disgust or s\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. How can we make His name the most important name here and now?

## Don't make a name for ourselves (1)

- A. Jesus opens this letter by declaring Himself to be the one who has the Seven Spirits of God and the seven stars.
  - 1. The Seven Spirits (i.e. the Holy Spirit – see 1:4,5) is under the a\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (Jn 14:16,17; 16:7,13,14)
    - a. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to g\_\_\_\_\_ believers.
    - b. The Holy Spirit act on His own but was under the a\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.
    - c. The Holy Spirit guides believers in a way that g\_\_\_\_\_ the name of Jesus.
  - 2. The seven stars (i.e. the seven messengers of leaders of the church – see 1:20).
    - a. Jesus has a\_\_\_\_\_ over the leadership
    - b. The leadership was to submit to Jesus's leadership in leading the church of Sardis.
- B. Jesus was well aware of the deeds of this leader (*I know your deeds*).
  - 1. The leader (and the church) had developed a r\_\_\_\_\_ (literally, name) for themselves.
    - a. This reputation was positive in the eyes of society - *you are a\_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of society,*
    - b. The reputation was negative in the eyes of the Lord - *but you are dead.*
      - 1) This does not mean that the leader was spiritually dead (that would make him an un\_\_\_\_\_)
      - 2) This means that the deeds he was doing that were making a name for himself were void of f\_\_\_\_\_.

2. The church of Sardis should have been a threat to the city's way of life.
  - a. The city emphasized emperor w\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The city emphasized the n\_\_\_\_\_ goddess, Cybele

### C. Application

1. A church working hard to increase its n\_\_\_\_\_ - what name are they emphasizing?
2. Small churches thinking that they are i\_\_\_\_\_ because of their size – what name are they emphasizing?
3. What is our church's reputation in the eyes of our town? – this is the w\_\_\_\_\_ question to ask.
4. The story of the tower of Babel records the error of the people in trying to make a name for themselves (Gen 11) – it resulted in them being s\_\_\_\_\_ by God over the face of the earth.

### Make a name for Christ (2,3)

A. Jesus commands the leader (and the church) to *wake up and strengthen the things that remain, which are about to die.*

1. This tells us that the leader and the people were still doing deeds of f\_\_\_\_\_.
2. This also tells us that they were about to give up those deeds out of being tired of doing them (i.e. they saw little impact from such deeds) – described as n\_\_\_\_\_ off.
3. If they gave in to sleepiness, Jesus would come to them like a t\_\_\_\_\_ (some kind of severe discipline)
  - 1) The town of Sardis believed itself to be safe from enemies because it was built upon an extremely s\_\_\_\_\_ hill.
  - 2) The town of Sardis was overtaken by enemies twice in history – both times at n\_\_\_\_\_ when no guards were posted.

B. Jesus tells the leader (and the church) how to strengthen the things that remain.

1. R\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. H\_\_\_\_\_ you have received and heard (Most versions wrongly translate as WHAT; the KJV translates it correctly. The word is used 118 times in the N.T. and it ONLY means “how.”

b. Jesus does not state what it was specifically that he had received and heard, but it is obviously referring the word of God.)

2. K\_\_\_\_\_ it (i.e. obey it)

a. He was to emphasize the g\_\_\_\_\_ message (making Christ's name known)

b. He was to emphasize the w\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ in his life and the life of others (see Matt 24:35)

### C. Application

1. Emphasize the g\_\_\_\_\_ - this is making a name for Christ (1Cor 15:3-6)

a. Remember how you came to Christ

b. Point others to Christ

2. Emphasizing obedience to God's w\_\_\_\_\_ (the Bible)

a. S\_\_\_\_\_ God's word

b. L\_\_\_\_\_ God's word

### **Conclusion:**

What is the most important name?

How does your day-to-day life answer that question?

What will you do to make Jesus the most important name?