

## In Touch

### SPIRITUAL DECLINE AND DEATH

Dear Friend:

Some of you may not be aware that I am currently in a sermon series preaching thru the book of Revelation. Actually, Kirk McVay and I are preaching thru Revelation. After an introductory chapter (chapter 1) chapter 2 & 3 records Christ's message (a.k.a. letters) to the 7 churches of Asia Minor (Turkey). This Sunday I will be preaching about the church of Sardis. The church of Sardis received the harshest message of all, Jesus told them they had a reputation of being alive but they were dead. What caused their death?

The first cause of death was what I call: ownership amnesia. Ownership amnesia can be best described as: forgetting who "owned" them, who the head of their church was. Jesus is the owner and the head of every church. Apparently Sardis headed down a path of spiritual decline ignoring a call from Christ to repent. A second cause of death was: they lived on past glory, past reputation that was no longer a reality. I am sure that somewhere in their history they were a thriving, vibrant church but something happened along the way that side tract them into decline. The third cause of death was: they somehow lost the power of the Holy Spirit, in other words they were Spirit-less.

In the midst of all the bad news there is some good news: their candle was not yet snuffed out, albeit there was little flame left. Revelation 3:2 says: "Wake-up and strengthen what remains". What was their path back to spiritual vitality? Wake-up and realize how bad they were spiritually and repent! I am running out of time so let me cut to the personal application: do you need a wake-up call and do you need to repent? Is your spiritual direction on the incline or decline? Do not let it remain on the decline, it results in spiritual death. My prayer for you is that you have the heart desire for a spiritually healthy and vibrant life in Christ.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

Prayer Requests: Stan Eller (kidney transplant), Dick Hickernell (cancer, tonsils), Dick Fisher, National and local politics, COVID19 sick

Events: October 18, "Coming Home" special Sunday calling all to come back to church! Special Message: In the next few days Pastor Mike will post a special video message to the congregation on our webpage please watch, CAN'T COME TO CHURCH YOU CAN WATCH AT HOME LIVE, SUNDAY'S 10:15 a.m. Go to Franklin Church Facebook...request permission to subscribe, once that is done you can watch the live worship service. Don't forget by about Wednesday of each week you can watch a recording of the sermon on the church website (go to sermons & newsletter tab)