

FOR we walk *by*
Faith,
not by sight.

- 2 Corinthians 5:7

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

**COME WORSHIP
WITH US!**

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES.....7:00

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
 - 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
 - Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday night of each month Following Services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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EAGERLY
Michael Pickford

The word "eager" is defined simply as a person wanting to do or have something very much. The word "Eagerly" has caught my attention from time to time as I read through the New Testament. I decided to write an article about it. I checked my concordance, and the word only appears ten times in the New Testament. Significantly, six of those speak of our desire and anticipation of our eternal reward.

- Romans 8:23: "Even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body."
- Romans 8:25: "But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance."
- 1 Corinthians 1:7: "eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,"
- Galatians 5:5: "For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith."
- Philippians 3:20: "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,"
- Hebrews 9:28: "To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."

It's clear that God wants His people to keep their eyes fixed on heaven. Staying focused on our eternal reward keeps us from being distracted by the shiny things of this world, and keeps us from being discouraged during the difficult days this world throws upon us. (Matthew 6:19-21; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18). 🔍

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA: SARDIS

David Eldridge

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels” (Rev. 3:1-5).

The church at Sardis was chastised by the Lord for their lacking works. Consider some facts about this church.

A Dead Church: The Lord said that the church at Sardis had a “name that you are alive, but you are dead” (Rev. 3:1). He based this condemnation on their works. There are many churches that have a name that they are alive. Perhaps this is because of the size of the congregation or their past good works. However, if the work of the Lord is not maintained in a church, the church will die in the eyes of the Lord. A local church’s profitableness is not gauged by the opinions of men – it is determined by its faithfulness unto the Lord!

A Church In Need Of Strengthening: The Lord besought the church at Sardis to “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God” (Rev. 3:2). There was still some goodness to be found at Sardis, yet it had become so diluted and weak that it was near death. The old adage “if you don’t use it, you lose it” holds true. A church needs to constantly strive to perfection in the sight of God. Paul tells us that the church is “...joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:16). The church will only grow and be strong when all are seeking to serve the Lord and one another.

A Church In Need Of Remembering: Jesus encourages the church at Sardis to “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent...” (Rev. 3:3). Man is oftentimes forgetful. The church at Sardis was in need of remembrance of the things they had been taught that they might return unto them in repentance. Many churches have forgotten the teachings of the Bible and therefore have refused to stand in them. They, like those in Jeremiah’s day, when encouraged to walk in the “old paths” say, “We will not walk therein” (Jer. 6:16). May we be a church that always remembers.

A Church With A Remnant: Despite all the problems, there were a “few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments” (Rev. 3:4). Jesus said that these would walk with Him in white for they were worthy. This remnant had remained faithful to the Lord. May we never forget our responsibility to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12).

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev. 2:7).–

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson
Reading: Proverbs 24:15-21
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Todd
 - Serve.....Rusty Barnes
 - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Mike Ambrose

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

Thank You For Serving!

GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

***Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!***