

Put God First
(Work Out Your Salvation)
Part 9

¹ 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. ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. ⁴ Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Revelation 3:1-6)

God in His word explained things in a clear way that as we read we can find the truth clearly from His word, therefore we are requested to apply them in our lives and in the lives of our children, and disciples, **“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 29:29)**

The message of the Lord to the church in Sardis speaks clearly how you need to work out your salvation with trembling and fear. Paul said to the Philippians **“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” (Philippians 2:12)** Paul was telling them to work out their salvation, and that mean to work out what they have received of input. Also the message of the Lord to the church in Sardis He said to them, **“Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.”** In the same way you had received certain things and heard the teaching of the Lord and you are accountable to respond and act to work out the things in accordance to God’s will and plan.

The whole mark of God’s coming judgment on the church of Sardis is in the following statement, **“for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.”** The Lord did not found their deeds complete. With what they have heard and received from the Lord they started to do something for the Lord but they did not complete it.

The message can be applied into your life to help you, instruct you and guide you to complete the deeds that the Lord entrusted to you to do. You need to avoid what can make your deeds incomplete in the sight of God?

1- Laziness: **“I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.”** In **Proverbs 18:9** it says **“One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.”** Non willingness to persevere and enduring troubles are signs of laziness and would finally makes you put aside the work of God that He entrusted to you to do.

2- Inconsistency: You may be active and diligent today and tomorrow but on the third day or later on you put aside what you had entrusted to do. You start something but then later on you don’t complete it.

3- Non willingness to respond to correction: Jesus said to the church in Sardis, **“Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die.”** It would not be the first time that the Lord would warn that church about their complacencies but they most probably they were non willing to respond. Style of reluctant to continue to finish the work of God, this the Lord will judge.

Paul wrote to the Colossians saying to them to **“tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.” (Colossians 4:17)** The message of the Lord through Paul is clear to Archippus is to complete the work that the Lord had entrusted to him. The same for you, God is calling you to complete what you had started and not to put aside by following these commands:

A- Wake up: **“for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (Ephesians 5:14)** It is a time for you to realize that your status is not right with God. It is a time for you to correct things and to start to walk faithfully with God.

B- Strengthen what remains and is about to die: Still there is hope and you can use what is remaining to achieve the things that God asked you to do.

C- Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard: **Sit down with the Lord and see what are the things that you had received from Him and what are the things that He had asked you to do for Him.**

D- Obey it: It is a time to put to into practice what you are hearing from God’s word, **“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)**

E- And repent: **“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.” (Matthew 3:8)** See what are the sins that are hindering you from doing and finishing the work entrusted to you; it is a time for you to quit sinning so you would be able to bear fruit and to complete the task.

When Paul sent Titus to the Corinthians was in order to *complete the task* that he started in the Corinthians churches to collect from them what they wanted to give to support Paul mission work, **“⁶ So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part.” (2Corinthians 8:6)** Paul also urged the Corinthians to cooperate with Titus and to excel in giving just as they were excelling in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in love. **“⁷ But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (2Corinthians 8:7)** From this word of God the Lord wants you to excel and be complete in the following aspects: **In faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, in your love and in the grace of giving.** And Paul finalized to them his instruction with this word of God: **“¹⁰ And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹² For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.” (2Corinthian 8:10-12)** So Paul finally recommended them to complete the task that they are called to do.

My Dear and Beloved: Work out your salvation by putting into practice what you hear from God’s word. Wake up, repent of your sins, and be diligent to put into practice what you hear in order to finish the task that is entrusted to you to do as you agree to pray. **My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following sins _____ . Lord I commit myself to put into practice what I heard and to complete the work entrusted to me. Give me the strength and the perseverance to do that, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*