

THE CHURCH AND YOU

WHAT WILL WE DO?

“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. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, 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.

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

REVELATION 3.1-3, 6

- 7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.
- 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
- 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
- 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- ▶ The tragedy of a sleeping church with unfinished business is that the church has a time-sensitive mission: it is responsible for the salvation of the world. God has no Plan B to implement in case the church fails in its mission.
- ▶ Jesus is the Fullness of God and the Head of the church; to be like him and to serve him is the worth and value of each person and every church.
- ▶ The church is the body of Christ; we are his physical presence, the visible representation of him in the world and to the world. If the world is to see and know Jesus, it will only be through us, his body.
- ▶ Everyone is an essential part of the body of Christ; there is no substitute for you or your presence and function in the church.
- ▶ Unity and spiritual maturity are the two most important factors to being a church that fulfills its purpose, and both factors depend on each of us.

Get more connected, spiritual and physically, to Christ
and the church

Intentionally ask the Holy Spirit for spiritual gifts

Focus on the needs and opportunities that you can see

Thank the Head of the church for the privilege of being
part of the church, His body, which He deeply loves

[The responsibility of pastors and teachers] is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. . . . As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

EPHESIANS 4.12-13, 16