

THE DEATH OF A CHURCH

INTRODUCTION- Revelation 3:1 "And to the angel of **the church in Sardis** write: He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, **but you are dead.** (NASB)

I. The Death Of A Church From Not Strengthening The Church

Revelation 3:2 **'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain,** which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and **to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up,** and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

2 Timothy 4:2 **Preach the word;** be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Titus 1:13 This witness is true. **Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;**

II. The Death Of A Church From Not Going Through The Open Doors Of Opportunity

Revelation 3:8 'I know your deeds. Behold, **I have put before you an open door which no one can shut,** because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. (NASB)

Colossians 4:3 praying at the same time for us as well, **that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ,** for which I have also been imprisoned;

III. The Death Of A Church By Being Lukewarm Because Of Physical Wealth

Revelation 3:15-17 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. **'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,** (NASB)

Revelation 3:18-19 **I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments,** that you may clothe yourself, and [that] the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and **eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.** 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and **repent.** (NASB)

IV. The Death Of A Church From Leaving The First Works

Revelation 2:4-5 Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken your first love.** Remember the height from which you have fallen! **Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.**

John 14:15 **If you love me, keep my commandments.**

1 John 2:3-4 And by this we know that **we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.** The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; (NASB)

V. The Death Of A Church From False Doctrine

Revelation 2:14-16 'But I have a few things against you, because **you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam**, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit [acts of] immorality. **'Thus you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore**; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

2 Peter 2:1-2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as **there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. **And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned**; (NASB)

Galatians 5:7-9 **You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?** This persuasion [did] not [come] from Him who calls you. **A little leaven leavens the whole lump [of dough.]** (NASB)

VI. The Death Of A Church Throught Public Sin Not Repented Of

Revelation 2:20-21 'But I have [this] against you, that **you tolerate the woman Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, and **she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit [acts of] immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols**. 'And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality. (NASB)

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 It is actually reported that **there is immorality among you**, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. **And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst**. (NASB)

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your boasting is not good. **Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump [of dough]?** (NASB)