

Revelation: The Time is Near

Be Watchful

Revelation 3-16

I was going to share this anyway...and it just so happens to go perfectly I think with the title of today's message...Walmart song...Broken & Beautiful, turns out it's Kelly Clarkson
Listening to lyrics...think it could be a worship song? But something is very off...plus it's on at Walmart so definitely won't be worship

***We're walking on the ocean, turning water into wine
We bury our emotion and pretend that we're just fine
The only way to live now is to know you're gonna fly
Don't listen to the lying liars and their lies***

*I never held my hand out and asked for something free
I got pride I could roll out for miles in front of me
I don't need your help, and I don't need sympathy
I don't need you to lower the bar for me*

*I know I'm Superwoman, I know I'm strong
I know I've got this 'cause I've had it all along
I'm phenomenal and I'm enough
I don't need you to tell me who to be*

***Don't fix me, don't try to change a thing
Can someone just know me?
'Cause underneath, I'm broken and it's beautiful***

***I'm tired (oh)
Can I just be tired? (just be tired)
Without piling on all sad and scared and out of time (oh)
I'm wild (wild)
Can I just be wild? (just be wild)
Without feeling like I'm failing and I'm losing my mind***

I mean...seriously...is this not the tone of our age?
That your brokenness is something good...something that doesn't need to be fixed.
That we've gotten so used to identifying with our hurts that they now define who we are.
And we're confused and hurt but we want to shrug that off because there's nothing wrong with us. Our sin is not sin, it's who we are and it's more than OK, it's something to be lauded.

And we don't need help, we're powerful! Our power comes from within! We've always had it! We don't need *you* to define us. Or anyone to. We define ourselves.

I mean, does that not sound like...

Isa 14:12-15 NKJV - 12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [How] you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

If you don't think we're living in a dark time...well most would agree perhaps...but I think at least 50% think it's a dark time because we can't be even more debased...but

Listen to the lyrics. Look at how the world interprets things and what it expects you to be.

It's a good litmus test for the real spirit of the age.

Previously:

- **John on Patmos**
- **Visions of the revealed Jesus Christ in power and glory**
- **Walking amongst 7 lampstands, 7 stars in his hand**
- **Message to the Loveless Church, Ephesus**
Rev 2:5 NKJV - 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.
- **Message to the Persecuted Church, Smyrna**
Rev 2:5, 10 NKJV - 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent. ... 10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw [some] of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- **Message to the Compromising Church, Pergamos**
Rev 2:17 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.
- **Message to the Corrupt Church, Thyatira**
Rev 2:22 NKJV - 22 "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

Today: The Dead Church, Sardis

Meaning of the Church Names

Ephesus:	The Desired One
Smyrna:	Myrrh; Death
Pergamos:	Mixed Marriage
Thyatira:	Semiramis (connection with Babylon, Dagon, fish God, Ishtar, even roots of Catholicism)
Sardis:	Remnant
Philadelphia:	Brotherly Love
Laodicea:	People Rule

<https://www.khouse.org/articles/1993/32/>

A dead church?! Isn't that an oxymoron like jumbo shrimp? Well..it should be.

How can a group of people...RESURRECTED by Jesus...be DEAD?

Reminds me of the Pharisees and Sadducees in Jesus' day

So caught up in their doctrine (but missing the Lord)

So caught up in their self-righteousness

So caught up in legalism

Jhn 9:26-34 NKJV - 26 Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear [it] again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" 28 Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. 29 "We know that God spoke to Moses; [as for] this [fellow], we do not know where He is from." 30 The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! 31 "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. 32 "Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. 33 "If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." 34 They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

Sardis

DG C This city was also a city well known for its softness and luxury. It had a well-deserved reputation for apathy and immorality. In Sardis there was a large, stately temple to the mother goddess, Cybele ... This mother goddess was honored and worshipped with all kinds of sexual immorality and impurity.

Are we beginning to notice a theme here?

Sexual immorality

Idolatry

How they are linked without fail

That worship of anything but God always leads to sexual immorality...

because worship of God is even designed around it.

God made us sexual creatures.

- Marriage is meant to be a picture of God and the church and the intimacy between God and people!
- Any time Israel went astray in the OT...God called in WHORING. ADULTERY. AGAINST HIM.
- Not that God desires a sexual relationship, but that the pleasures and joy and rapturous nature of it is so tied to our spirit and what a relationship with Him gives us...that it's inseparable.

And when we begin to stray from him and turn to the FLESH to fulfill our SPIRITUAL desires we go quite far in the wrong direction quickly.

Apostasy - the abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief.

When you find a major Christian turning on the fundamentals of the faith...rest assured, it's likely because of some sexual immorality. Either their condoning of some form (homosexuality, etc) or their own involvement in some.

And that it seems everywhere we look in the scripture...the major cities were full of it. The societies in which these believers lived were bent on it.

So don't think the Bible is outdated or irrelevant. It's just as relevant today, in 2020.

Revelation 3:1-6

To the pastor/leadership/messenger of the church

Again, the main message for the church always flows from God to the pastor(s) to the rest of the church...the mouthpiece. As ultimately the pastor is responsible for the spiritual wellbeing of those who are a part of the church.

Like a father for a family

1Ti 3:5 NKJV - 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

Jesus introduces himself...the giver of the message**As the one who has the full/complete Spirit of God and the messengers as well**

7 number of completion, perfection

Interesting that he hearkens back to the vision he gave John ... almost as if to say...watch out...I have total authority and you're in danger. I hold you but it is me who holds you. Not the other way around. Your lampstand can be removed.

Also that these letters to the churches imply that John's vision was told to each church as well.

Remember: to a specific church in that day, also speaks of a church age, and a kind of church today**Strengthen the things which remain**

In part "the few names who have not defiled their garments"

But the things of God in their lives...whatever it may be...strengthen them.

Maybe they have Bibles but barely read them...**READ THEM**Maybe they pray once in a while...**PRAY MORE**Maybe they're in and out of church when it's convenient...**GO REGULARLY****Because these things can be revived!****BUT THEY ARE ON THEIR DEATHBED. READY TO DIE.****Their works are not perfect before God.**

If they even had any works! If they even did anything for God! ^ maybe the things that remain
But the sense is here that even whatever they did in the name of God...wasn't really for him.

By the time the package reached heaven...there was nothing there for God to enjoy about it.

Jesus, who has the PERFECT spirit of God...is telling them that their works are NOT DONE IN THE SPIRIT BY THE SPIRIT. ARE NOT PERFECT.**Watchful** - watchful, wake, be vigilant

to watch

metaph. give strict attention to, be cautious, active

to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one

The thing that is causing them to be apathetic? Not being watchful! Not paying attention!*Reddit (video) about gut instincts, paying attention to them*

Not paying attention in class - because I think it doesn't matter...because I think I knew it...led to poor grades, getting in trouble, and setting bad precedents in my life. I may have been smart, but I was not an accomplished or good student and my grades were reflective of that. I didn't think it mattered then, but I realize it did matter, more than I knew.

The same goes for us spiritually...especially in the times we live in...the last days before the end.

Parable of 10 virgins - **Matthew 25:1-3**

If you're not paying attention when you drive, you'll crash. Even if you don't swerve out of your lane or do anything wrong...someone else will run into you!

What's the cure? It starts with remembering!

Communion is a great way to remember the cross

What you received and heard...received Jesus, the Holy Spirit...and heard...the Word of God
First being in search, soaking in the Word like being sprayed with a fire hose, like the old Maxell Hi-Fidelity commercials

Holding fast to those things! If we don't hold on tightly, we'll drop them.

Life, especially the Christian one...is a roller coaster

*Thinking about taking my kids on one yesterday while thinking about family vacations
Going on a roller coaster...stuffing pockets...people losing items....*

But all of that is for nothing and will be lost again...unless they REPENT TOO!

You can't serve God and Mammon

You can't hold on to God and things of the world

You can't pursue holiness with God and continue to do wickedness.

It doesn't work like that.

V3 "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."

It's up to them! To you! To me! To watch!

People don't heed warnings. People don't pay attention.

Coronavirus...medical mask shortage now

Why? Because we don't think it'll happen!

We aren't watching and paying attention! To history! To world events! To the factors!

People were unsanitary in the past and it led to other outbreaks.

We're more sanitary now...but they can still happen and infect the entire world in a matter of days...we can hop a plane, train or car and be on the other side of the world and infecting others before we even know we're sick

WATCH OUT.

The same thing can happen spiritually if we're not watching and looking to Jesus for everything! What you thought was a good move...is a mistake.
What you thought was completely safe spiritually...was an open grave.

I will come upon you as a thief

Burglar AMA

That the CHURCH would be so oblivious to things of God, the signs of the times...going from staring and looking up at heaven during the ascension and being told to get busy about God's work...to growing so apathetic that they wouldn't know God was coming back unless he slapped them in the face on his arrival.

YOU WILL NOT KNOW THE HOUR IF YOU ARE NOT WATCHING

We won't know the exact second...but you know what, if we're watching, if we're paying attention spiritually to all things as best as possible...we'll have a pretty good idea of what time he's coming back.

It could literally be any minute.

Israel has been a nation since 1948. If my understanding, that generation that saw that shall not pass away. They're getting older now. But my parents who were children during that time are still alive. Thankfully. But in all honesty, how much time do they have left?

Plus Iran, Russia, China, outbreaks, fires, volcanos, earthquakes

Matthew 24:3-14

Luke 21:7-19

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Luk 21:11 NKJV - 11 "And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

Let's not even talk about the fearful sights in the heavens...UFOs...asteroids...strange objects

2Th 2:9-10 NKJV - 9 The coming of the [lawless one] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

WE'RE HERE GUYS

**Are you watching? It's not me telling you to sit up and pay attention.
It's GOD TELLING US ALL TO.**

The warning is that if we don't...we will miss his coming because when we stop paying attention, stop caring about the reality of scripture, and life and time...we get caught up in other things...raptured by things of this earth...and we might just miss being caught up into heaven because we grew so apathetic we turned our back on the faith completely and renounced it in apostasy for a name that we were alive in the world (and not some backwards religious fanatic) but we were really dead.

You have a few names in Sardis who have not defiled their garments

Even in this straight up dead church, straight up wicked city...there are still a few who are saved, are paying attention.

Always a relief to know that there is always a remnant of a faithful few...no matter how bad things get.

Not defiled their garments

This means the rest were defiling their garments. Christians, wearing their cross necklaces, to the idol temple for some "worship"

Known to go to church, probably even talking at work about how great their church is...while cursing, talking about their sexual exploits, drinking, wild partying...not quite really the Spirit Filled life...is it.

They shall walk with me in white...for they are worthy.

Be careful when you think you're worthy...because you're not.

When we realize that we're not worthy...that's when God sees us as worthy. When we realize that our sin is sin and it needs to be dealt with.

Psa 51:17 NKJV - 17 The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart--These, O God, You will not despise.

Isa 42:3 NKJV - 3 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth.

**He who overcomes...those in the church were given the opportunity to overcome
But they had to repent and hold fast! Otherwise they would not make it. They would
quickly be sucked back into the depths of apathy and apostasy.**

Jesus will confess his name before the Father.

What a picture there!

Blotted out from the book of life

Implies that it was written there and CAN BE REMOVED.

Not losing your salvation if you want your salvation...but it seems you can easily let it go.

Before God and his angels

Heb 12:1-2 NKJV - 1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares [us], and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Again, this message is to ALL the churches throughout ALL time...

Are we hearing what the Spirit is saying? Or are we too caught up in the deceitfulness of sin and our own entertainment?