

“I Know Your Deeds”

Along a profitable trade route across the Aegean Sea border, there was a small but wealthy city in Asian Minor known as “Sardis”. It was the home of one of the Seven Assemblies that the Ruach (Spirit) of Yahushua, had commanded the Talmid (Apostle) Yohannan, to write letters that would commend and rebuke their actions (Revelation 3:1-6).

These letters were written to each one of the Seven Assemblies, and contained a very essential message pertaining to that individual Assembly, which would have a significant bearing to their future.

There is a connection which must be applied to the lives of every believer of the Messiah Yahushua, in these end times we are living in today, particularly the message that was given to the Sardis Assembly.

The problem inside the Sardis Assembly wasn't caused by an opinion, doctrine, or practice that went against the Assemblies belief or standards. It was caused by spiritual death. Their overall quality and character was recognized by the whole known world as to having an honorable name.

However inside, it was infested with sin caused by their deeds and actions, which had been polluted by the corruption in Sardis so bad, that the Ruach of Yahushua had no words of commendation for their Assembly.

The appearance of this Assembly looked so good on the outside to the rest of the world, but deep down inside, they were corrupted by their sinful actions, can you picture that?

This is what the Ruach of Yahushua had to say; “To the Malek (Angel) of the Assembly in Sardis write: These are the words of Him who holds 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 Elohim. 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” (Revelation 3:1-3).

What Yahushua is telling the Assembly, is that it doesn’t matter how many verses of scripture we can quote, or that we donated all of our old clothes to the homeless. He said that it doesn’t even mean a thing because we gave some of our wealth to the Assembly or the poor.

All of those things, only “Look Good” to the world from the outside, but what really matters to Yahushua is what’s on the inside. Are we being obedient by living our life by those scriptures we can quote? Are we giving with love, from a true heart as we have been commanded to do?

If not we are dead to Yahushua. We are dead spiritually, and if we find ourselves in an Assembly like Sardis that is dead, then its time to preserve our faithfulness by asking Yahuah to intervene. Ask Him to help us find others who have been awakened and are being obedient, by living their lives according to His word.

We will see in a moment, that there are a few people who have not “soiled” their clothes. We will know how their accomplishing this and their end result for doing so.

Yahushua told the Assembly at Sardis to “Wake Up”. That’s because they had been put into a deep slumber by all of the lies and deception of the enemy, shatan. They were so deep in this trance, that they had no clue they were doing the work of shatan. Nothing has changed today. The Assembly is still sleeping!

Although the lies and deception may seem and feel right, Yahushua said that good deeds are lacking something, a very important part that is known as the truth, and with out it, in the sight if Yahuah, those deeds are not only incomplete, but they are unacceptable.

In order for us to find this truth, we must fervently dig below the surface of all the lies and deception, which has been covering up the truth for so long.

Doing this is impossible from the state of a deep slumber where one can only lie near the surface of those lies and deceptions, and unable to penetrate it. This is only an appearance of the truth, without any substance or worth of it.

The Assembly at Sardis was told to wake up, because their wealth and comfort had caused them to sleep. Their own pleasure caused them to die spiritually, why? They wandered away from the original teachings of the Talmidim which was given to them by Yahushua.

*Without those teachings, their faith could not grow making it impossible to share the "Good News", in turn causing them to lack the compassion needed to serve others. Without the unity and love, they were no longer able to **be watchful and alert**.*

*The Assembly at Sardis was strongly urged to go back to what they first heard and believed in, and that was Yahushua's teachings of the "Good News". He taught them to repent from living the life of sin and turn to being obedient to Yahuah and His **Ten Commandments**, which Yahushua did by being a living example to them.*

Refusing to repent from a sinful lifestyle, which would only end in destruction and death, Yahushua taught that there was no sin, physical or spiritual, to great for Him to heal.

He taught that the Reign of Shamayim (Heaven) was drawing near, offering freedom, hope, and peace, having eternal life with Yahuah.

Yahushua often taught in a structure known as a synagogue where Yahudim (Jewish) families gathered on the Shabbat (7th day) and not Sunday (1st day). He would read and teach the people from the Old Testament scriptures, in which the prophets had spoken about Yahushua, and His Reign to come.

He never taught of the Old Testament scriptures of the Torah (Law) and prophets being done away with, in fact He taught that "He did not come to abolish the law and prophets, but to fulfill them" (Matit Yahu 5:17).

It was not Yahushua who said that; we do not have to obey the "Ten Commandments" after my death, burial, and resurrection because they will be nailed to the stake.

The Menorah has seven lamps which represent Yahushua's body or the Seven Assemblies. Through these Seven Assemblies, flows the lamps oil, the "living waters".

These living waters are the Torah (laws), which give light to this world that is living in darkness (sin). The real symbol of The Messiah Yahushua is not a cross or a fish, but a Menorah. He has never changed its significance or its power to them as this world will have us to believe.

Amazingly in 1962 at an excavation of Sardis, a synagogue was uncovered and founded to be in operation between 200c.e. to 616c.e. A couple of years later in October of 1967, a large stone was found, sculptured in the shape of a Menorah.

Now what made this discovery most fascinating was the article written? It stated that this Yahudim community held prestigious power, in fact these Christian Yahudim, were the true Yahudim. (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia Vol. 4, pg. 337, article "Sardis").

I believe strongly that this Yahudim community of so called Christian Yahudim, were actually the Natsarim Assembly, who were still holding on to the teachings of Yahushua.

These are the teachings that this world must get back to if we are going to see eternity with our Master and Savior, and are the basic's of our faith.

The understanding of our faith that this world has been taught over the past 1980 years, is incorrect because of the abandoning of the Truth.

We must deepen our understanding and in order to get deeper, it is going to take careful and dedicated studying of what the word of Yahuah says so we can realize what it means!

Taking the time to reflect on these words, Yahuah will give us the insight needed, by speaking to us through those words. However we must be ready to be open and receptive, for He will show us His timeless wonders of Truths we never knew and how to apply them to our lives.

All it will take is to consider what we have read by thinking it through slowly, then meditating on it day and night. Yahuah will give us the understanding needed.

*The message of **waking up** from this deep slumber and returning back to the original teachings that were given to His Talmidim by Yahushua can only be accomplished by studying and reading Yahuah's word very carefully.*

*Giving this much dedication, it will enable us to get that deeper understanding of His Truth to the point where we obey it, by repenting from the lies and deception we had been taught by **man**.*

Right now today, there are a few who have done this. I wrote earlier, that we would know who they are, what they have done, and what awaits them for doing so.

*Here are Yahushua's words; "Yet you have a few people in Sardis whom have not soiled their clothes. **They** will walk with **Me**, 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 Maleks (angels). He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Assembly” (Revelation 3:4-6).*

The Assembly in Sardis had been corrupted by the sinful lifestyle that surrounded them, by compromising the word of Yahuah and the original teachings of Yahushua.

So the few who had not soiled their clothes, by keeping their flesh from being corrupted, had to make a decision at some point, to separate themselves from the worlds decaying society, refusing to accept its way of life and values.

In doing this, they acknowledge before man, the name of our creator Yahuah, and the only name by which we can be saved, Yahushua. They also decided to speak up for what Truth in the scriptures is, even though it went against the false teachings and lifestyle, widely accepted by the Assembly in Sardis.

They took a stand, turning away from the false peace and comfort, founded in the lies and deception, which the enemy provides when we disown the Truth, even if it is at the cost of losing their loved ones, family and friends.

Does this describe anyone we know? I’m sure it does because it is speaking of the Natsarim Assembly who have been called out, Set Apart by Yahuah and made pure.

The Ruach of Yahushua says that for making this decision to wake up and repent from the lies and deception of shatan, and turning back to the Truth, obeying it, we will walk with Yahushua, dressed in a white robe that has been dipped in the Blood of the Lamb and found worthy for doing so.

For those who have not done so yet, the Ruach of Yahushua also says; for those who search out the Truth and regain consciousness, and over power the enemy shatan, by believing, walking and obeying the Truth, like the called out ones, they will also be dressed in white.

I can't speak for anyone else, but for me to know that by overcoming the enemy, my name will never be blotted out of the book of life by Yahushua, is a great honor and a sigh of relief. Just the thought of Yahushua acknowledging my name before Yahuah and His maleks, gives me goose bumps and tears of joy.

But wait a minute, hold the phone! It's not over yet. There indeed will be time for celebration, but this isn't it. There is a whole world out there who has spoken of the Messiah and Savior, as if they know Him personally. How can it be if they aren't even calling Him by His name?

There will be many dreams and hopes shattered, "unless", we the called out ones use our time talents and treasures we have been blessed with, to serve Yahuah's people.

After all, the Messiah is coming back, and if one is not ready, they will miss the boat. In Matit Yahu 25:1-13, Yahushua told the parable of ten virgins so it is perfectly clear exactly what it means to be ready for His return and how we are to live our live until He comes.

This parable is about a wedding and these ten virgins who were waiting to join the wedding procession, hoping to take part in the Wedding Feast.

Five were foolish (the world) and five were wise (called out ones). The foolish ones are waiting for a savior and redeemer, whom they have been taught, unaware of the corruption of those teachings and the removal of the Truth. This is like a lamp without any oil.

The wise are waiting and prepared for Yahushua, which again, is the only name under Shamayim, given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). They have believed the "Ruach of Truth" and are living their lives obediently to that Truth. They are like lamps with unlimited jars of oil, always ready and prepared.

We know that for centuries there has been talk of the Messiah returning. This world has gotten tired of waiting, dropping their guard. Their focus and attention has been taken off of the prize and replaced by all of the worldly things shatan has made them to believe are of greater value.

*It has put them into this deep slumber that this world is in today. Unless we who are "**Wide Awake**" do not work diligently, using our time to revive them out of this deep slumber, they will not enter into the Wedding Feast with us. I'm talking about the ones we love, our families and friends. It will be a crying shame if they have to hear those words that Yahushua will speak: "**I don't know you**".*

We have been called out, chosen for a reason. It is bigger than we can ever imagine. We have been entrusted with this charge, and to fail is not an option. Failure could only come from laziness or hatred toward our Master.

*Yahuah has given us this time, talents, resources, and expects us to use them according to our abilities. The issue is not how much we have, but how well we can use what we have, "**Together**", Amein*

Joseph Rueben Cortez

