



Daily Reflections

November 15, 2016

Scripture

Revelations 3:1-6, 14-22

I, John, heard the Lord saying to me:

“To the angel of the Church in Sardis, write this:

“The one who has the seven spirits of God

and the seven stars says this: “I know your works,

that you have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Be watchful and strengthen what is left, which is going to die,

for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

Remember then how you accepted and heard; keep it, and repent.

If you are not watchful, I will come like a thief,

and you will never know at what hour I will come upon you.

However, you have a few people in Sardis

who have not soiled their garments;

they will walk with me dressed in white,

because they are worthy.

“The victor will thus be dressed in white,

and I will never erase his name from the book of life
but will acknowledge his name in the presence of my Father
and of his angels.

“Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

“To the angel of the Church in Laodicea, write this:

“The Amen, the faithful and true witness,
the source of God’s creation, says this:

“I know your works;

I know that you are neither cold nor hot.

I wish you were either cold or hot.

So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold,

I will spit you out of my mouth.

For you say, ‘I am rich and affluent and have no need of anything,’

and yet do not realize that you are wretched,

pitiably, poor, blind, and naked.

I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich,
and white garments to put on

so that your shameful nakedness may not be exposed,

and buy ointment to smear on your eyes so that you may see.

Those whom I love, I reprove and chastise.

Be earnest, therefore, and repent.

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,

then I will enter his house and dine with him,

and he with me.

I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my throne,

as I myself first won the victory

and sit with my Father on his throne.

“Whoever has ears ought to hear

what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Our Scripture Reflection

In today's text, John has a vision in which the Lord God takes the Churches located at Sardis and Laodicea to task because they are no longer vibrant and alive in their faith. They have grown lazy, weak and lackluster in their

practice of the faith. John calls them to rekindle the fires of faith and to give a lively witness to the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

Food for your Journey

Our greatest presidents, Washington and Lincoln, were shaped by the preaching of the church, and they called the nation to repentance. No president today would do that, and that's a big loss. Instead of that, we're completely focused on the incredible capacity and power of our military, and that's not Christian -- to focus on that to the exclusion of the people suffering under the bombardment.

--Fleming Rutledge, in a Religion & Ethics Newsweekly TV interview, April 18, 2003. pbs.org.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Lord, Strengthen my faith so that I may give a vibrant witness to You. Amen.