

**Articles and Sermons :: But you are dead! J.A James**

But you are dead! J.A James - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/5/1 14:34

But you are dead!

(John Angell James, "Earnestness in Religion")

"I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead!" Revelation 3:1

One most impressive lessons which is taught here, is that churches may have a reputation for being in a flourishing condition--and yet be all the while in a state of progressive decay!

How many churches are flattering themselves that they are in a flourishing condition! The place of worship may be commodious, elegant, and free from debt. The minister may be popular, and approved by his flock. The congregation may be large, respectable, and influential. The finances may be good, and even prosperous. In short, there may be every mark of external prosperity--until the church flatters itself into the idea of its being in a high state of spiritual health.

But examine its internal state! Inquire into its condition as viewed by God! Inspect the private conduct of its members --and what a different aspect of things is seen then!

How prevalent is the spirit of the world in their social fellowship! Games and parties, scarcely differing from the fashionable circles of the worldly and the mirthful, are kept up at much expense, and with every accompaniment of frivolity and levity! Let a godly person of devotional taste, spiritual affections, and tenderness of conscience, enter into the parties of such a congregation--and what a destitution of vital piety, and what prevailing worldliness would he find!

Let us look beneath the illusive covering of external prosperity--and examine whether disease and decay are lurking underneath!

There is often a strange contrast between the 'heavenliness' which a church professes--and the 'worldliness' of her conduct.

"For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing; not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked." (Revelation 3:17)

Re: But you are dead! J.A James - posted by saltlicker20 (), on: 2007/5/1 15:16

I met a minister this weekend who has people that marvel at his flock...yet he's the first to say that on the inside they do not know Christ.

Praise the LORD for ministers who do not accept the praise of men as "spiritual healthiness" and seek God even harder when all things seem to be "going right" in the church.

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I Pet 4:2