



**FOR THE SERMON PREACHED ON:** Sunday, November 28, 2021

**TITLE:** A Letter to a Dead church

**PASSAGE:** Revelation 3:1-6

**SERIES:** The Book of Revelation: Worthy is the Lamb

1. The church in Sardis has a reputation of being alive, but Jesus calls them dead (v1). Can you think of examples of ministries or church denominations that have had fantastic reputations for their good works but were later revealed to be dead inside? What warning should we as a church and as individuals take from that?
2. Neighbouring churches faced persecution from the Jews and Romans, but Jesus does not mention the church of Sardis facing similar harassment. Why do you suppose the Jews and Romans left the church of Sardis alone? What can churches today learn from this observation?
3. Jesus commands the church to *wake up* (which means be watchful, v2). This command was meaningful to the church in Sardis because they had twice fallen into enemy hands due to their failure to watch. How can you guard your spiritual life and remain watchful? Are you aware of your particular weaknesses and what seemingly innocent activities hold the potential to lull you to sleep?
4. Jesus commands the church to *strengthen what remains* (v2). Read Exodus 15:2, Isaiah 41:10, 1 Pet 5:10. How does the believer strengthen their faith?
5. Jesus tells the church to “*remember what you have received and heard. Keep it and repent*” (v3). How did you receive and hear the gospel? Do you obey it? How has it changed you? Of what do you need to repent? (\*NOTE: “Remember” is ‘to bear in mind,’ which means to consider something when you are thinking about or doing something else. “What” means ‘how’ they have received and heard the gospel. “Keep it and repent” are present tense.)
6. What feelings does the idea of Christ returning unexpectedly and at any moment stir in you?
7. What four promises does Jesus make in verses 4-5? And to whom does he make them? What do those promises mean?

**Application questions** (Adapted from Wayne Grudem):

1. Do my actions reveal that I *continually believe* in Christ for salvation?
2. What evidence exists in my life of a regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in my heart?
3. Read 2 Peter 1:5-10. What am I doing to increase in virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, and brotherly affection?

(See **Prayer Points** on Page 2.)

## 1. THE PRAISEWORTHY QUALITIES OF JESUS:

- He is the Triune God (v1)
- He holds the churches in his hands (v1) • He gives the Holy Spirit (v1)
- He knows all and sees all (v1)
- He warns and calls His people (v2)
- He judges the unrepentant (v3)
- He makes His people worthy (v4)
- He promises His presence, and His security to His people (v5) • He holds the power of eternal life (v5)

### REVERENCE:

- Lord, we worship you because . . .
- Jesus, we praise you because you call to me/us when . . . • Lord, thank you for your mercy when . . .
- Lord, we praise you because you have made us worthy

### RESPONSE:

- Lord, I confess that I have tolerated the sin of \_\_\_\_\_; help me to walk in . . .
- Lord, search my mind and heart and see if there is any sin in me
- Lord, I repent of my failure to profess your name to \_\_\_\_\_. Strengthen me to boldly share the Gospel with them

### REQUEST:

- Lord, grant us the grace to see when we as a church need to wake up and repent • Lord, strengthen us to bear in mind the hope of the Gospel and not let sin fester
- Lord, give us the grace we need to daily follow your word and live for you
- Lord, help me to repent quickly when you convict me of sin

### READINESS:

- Jesus, strengthen us to endure to the end by your grace • Lord, we will trust in you for our eternal security and hope • Lord, come quickly!