



7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION

FALL 2019 SERIES

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October 27, 2019

REVELATION 3:1-6
SARDIS

*"And to the angel of the church in **SARDIS** write:*

'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.'" v. 1a

JESUS SEES when our greatest spiritual days are _____ us.

"I know your works." v. 1b

JESUS CONFRONTS the way we passively _____ our spiritual lives.

*"You have the reputation of being alive, but *you are dead.*"* v. 1c

SIGNS OF A TRULY ALIVE CHRISTIAN

A heartbeat for what moves God's heart
Eyes open to looking for how God might use you
Responsiveness to God's nudges and prompting
Affecting the environment around you

JESUS COMMANDS us to wake up and _____ our faith for what lies ahead.

*"Wake up, and *strengthen what remains* and is about to die, for *I have not found your works complete* in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. *Keep it, and repent.* If you will not wake up, *I will come like a thief*, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you." vv. 2-3*

Wake up to the glory days ahead and don't settle for the glory days of old.

YOU CHOOSE

Let God's Word give you a _____ view of yourself so you aren't fooled. (Rom 12:3)

Forget what is behind because your best days are _____. (Phil 3:13-14)

Reactivate your passive faith to make new _____ with God. (1 Cor 2:9)

JESUS REWARDS those who wake up to walk with Him in _____.

*"Yet *you still have a few* names in Sardis, people *who have not soiled their garments*, and they will *walk with me in white*, for they are worthy. **The one who conquers** will be clothed thus in *white garments*, and I will *never blot his name out of the book of life.* *I will confess his name* before my Father and before his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." vv. 4-6*

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

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BACKGROUND: Revelation 3:1-6

Sardis, 30 miles south of Thyatira, was an important transportation and commercial hub that became a center of fabulous wealth. Gold and silver coinage was first minted here. Its last great king, Croesus, was so rich he became an adage: "as rich as Croesus." Under him, Sardis ruled all other Asian cities.

Sardis was also geographically blessed with a grand acropolis perched atop a steep ridge 1,500 feet above the plain, seemingly impregnable to all assaults. The key here word is "seemingly," because it was thought to be so steep that no guard was necessary. When King Cyrus of Persia began his conquests and turned his eyes to the wealthy Sardis, his army attempted to storm the citadel repeatedly in 546 B.C. but failed. Just when it seemed Cyrus was withdrawing in defeat, one of his men spotted a Lydian soldier who had dropped his helmet down the slopes and clambered down to retrieve it. They watched carefully where he climbed back to the citadel and marked the place. This was the undoing of Sardis, for Cyrus's men were able to force entry there and seize the citadel.

Why didn't Croesus prevail? Misplaced confidence in the impregnability of the city. And Sardis was seized again in 218 B.C. under similar circumstances when Antiochus III captured it because no guard was posted above the steep slopes!

Perhaps some of this history of Sardis is behind the message to the church: the failure to be vigilant. In a sense the church at Sardis was spiritually sleepwalking, dead on their feet while appearing to be awake. But a vigilant minority of people "have not soiled their clothes"—this vivid metaphor probably refers to compromise with the cultural environment. Jesus summons those believers in spiritual slumber: "Wake up! Strengthen what remains." How? Remember and obey the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus. The consequences of failing to immediately respond mirror the history of Sardis. Like successful assaults on the city, Jesus will come "like a thief" and the church at Sardis will cease to exist.

VIDEO View Week 5 together as a group, and be sure to take notes.

DISCUSSION Read aloud Revelation 3:1-6.

1. What are some reasons why people slide into maintaining only the minimum requirements of work, relationships, school, life goals, etc.? How have you experienced this yourself, and what's the outcome of "coasting" in this way?
2. What are the evidences that a church is in spiritual demise? How did the church at Sardis display these tendencies?
3. Would you say that Christ Chapel's best days are behind us, or is there more adventure and growth ahead? How do you play a role in the outcome?
4. How has this sermon motivated you to stay vigilant against passivity and neglect in your walk with Christ?
5. What from the video or *Continuing the Conversation* devotionals was notable or helpful?
6. What new things do you see God doing in your life right now? How does that cause you to respond to Him?

CLOSE your group time in prayer.

*Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of *The Source* at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.*

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP AND SERVE. If you've been connected at Christ Chapel for a while, take your next step and find a place to serve! There are lots of ways to get involved at our church and in the community. Text "CCBCServe" to 555-888 to find your place now.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY. We're looking for 50 more people to join our dream team of volunteers in Children's Ministry! Beyond using your baby whispering, crafting, snacking or story-reading skills, you'll be a part of an incredible community. Sign up today at www.ccbcfamily.org/dreamteam.

"THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES" CLASS IS TODAY. A Jewish tradition that began in the days of the Bible, the Feast of Tabernacles has incredibly deep and rich meaning for our lives today. Join Dr. David Teitelbaum at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall West and learn how the feast is a picture of how God always provides for His people.

"YOUR WORK MATTERS" BEGINS TODAY. Do you go to work every day wondering if any of it matters? In this new class about work and faith, you'll learn with other Christ Chapelites how God is with you in your work. Men and women from a diverse range of Fort Worth industries will lead the class. Sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/events. "Your Work Matters" meets at 11 a.m. in Link Classroom North.

INTEREST MEETING FOR PANAMA MEDICAL MISSION TRIP IS TODAY AT 12:30 P.M. We're building a team to serve communities in Panama and if you're a medical professional, we want you to come with us! Join us at 12:30 p.m. in Link Classroom North to learn about the trip. Can't make it, but want to know more? Email Danella at DanellaH@christchapelbc.org.

"BIBLE STUDY METHODS" STARTS THIS FRIDAY! This is a rare opportunity to learn up close from Dallas Theological Seminary President Dr. Mark Bailey with friends. Dr. Bailey will be teaching an in-depth strategy for studying Scripture and drawing on cultural contexts to better understand the Bible. Normally a semester-long seminary course, this class is just two days, this Friday, Nov. 1 and Saturday, Nov. 2, at Christ Chapel. Register at www.ccbcfamily.org/events. The cost is \$25.

CURIOUS ABOUT TAKING SEMINARY CLASSES IN FORT WORTH? Dallas Theological Seminary is having a Preview Day this Saturday, Nov. 2 here at our Fort Worth Campus. Join us and learn how you can earn a seminary degree in Fort Worth. You'll be able to meet DTS faculty, learn about the programs offered, sit in on a class and talk with admissions staff. Register at dts.edu/fortworth. The event will last from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NATIONAL ORPHAN SUNDAY LUNCH IS NEXT SUNDAY, NOV. 3. God has called all of us to care for children without families. Come to lunch next week and learn how you can step in and help. Jedd Medefind, President of Christian Alliance for Orphans, will be speaking. The lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. in the Oak Room. Kids Care is available for ages 0 to 11 by RSVP at www.ccbcfamily.org/KidsRSVP through this Thursday, Oct. 31.

CONTINUE THE REVELATION CONVERSATION! Want more of the fall series? Head to www.ccbcfamily.org/7churches for info on how to get devos from our pastors throughout the week, recipes, articles on each week's church and more.

SERMON BLANKS: behind, neglect, fortify, realistic, ahead, memories, victory

