

**"The Dead Church"
(Revelation 3:1-6)**

Christ's letter to the church at Sardis provides another opportunity for us to evaluate ourselves in light of . . .

I. Christ's Character (1a)

- Involves Power of **the Spirit**
"he that hath the seven spirits"
- Involves Power of **the Scripture**
"and the seven stars"

II. Christ's Concern (1b)

- A **Deceived** Church
"thou hast a name that thou livest"
- A **Dead** Church
"and art dead"

III. Christ's Counsel (2-3)

- Specific **Work** (2-3a)
"Be watchful...Strengthen...Remember...Hold fast...Repent"
- Serious **Warning** (3b)
"If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief..."

IV. Christ's Commendation (4)

- His **Recognition**
"Thou hast a few names...which have not defiled their garments"
- His **Reward**
"they shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy"

V. Christ's Coming (5-6)

- Promise of Eternal **Purity**
"He that overcometh...shall be clothed in white raiment"
- Promise of Eternal **Security**
"I will not blot his name out of the book of life"

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Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker Share a time that you pretended to be someone else, maybe in a play, in a costume, as a child, as a prank, etc.

1. Share something from Sunday's sermon that spoke to you personally – a challenge? an encouragement? a good reminder?
2. Why do you think Jesus would call this church or any church "dead"? Why might He also consider a Christian as "dead"?
3. What is the five-fold counsel in Rev 3:2-3 that Christ gives this dead church? Explain in your own words why each one of these five exhortations are so important.
4. How does Rev 3:4 give us hope and encouragement to stay faithful to the Lord no matter what is going on around us?

Digging Deeper

1. Look up the following verses and decide which section of the sermon outline on front they best support. (Hint: They are in order 😊)
Is 11:2; Zec 4:6; 1 Thes 5:19
1 Thes 2:13; Heb 4:12
Matt 23:25-26; Phil 3:13-14
Eph 2:1; 5:14; 2 Tim 3:5
Mat 26:38-41; Col 4:2; 1 Thes 5:6; 1 Pet 5:8
Lk 22:32; Rom 1:11; Jas 5:8; Acts 14:22; 15:41
Matt 24:42-44; 1 Thes 5:2; Rev 16:15
1 Cor 8:7; 2 Cor 7:1; Rev 14:4
Rev 3:18; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9; 19:14
Lk 10:20; Phil 4:3; Rev 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; and 22:19
2. Christ's exhortation to "Be watchful" stresses the importance of being spiritually alert, awake, alive and vigilant. Take some time to pray for God to reveal areas of your Christian life that may be getting stagnant and to keep you spiritually alert. (Consider Matt 26:38-41 & 1 Pet 5:8)

For Next Week

Read Christ's letter to the church of Philadelphia in Rev 3:7-13. How is this letter similar to (or different than) the previous letters?

