

- c) Made white by the blood of the Lamb.
- d) Roman victory, white clothing and a walk.

iii. What is the Lamb's book of life?

a) Exodus 32:23-34

b) Rev. 20:12

iv. Christ will profess their name in heaven!

### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- In Christ's message to Sardis, what is at the root of why they are dead even though they appeared alive? What is the key problem?
- In the 7 messages to the churches, how does Christ, at least primarily, evaluate the churches? Does that surprise you?
- What is the source of the church in Sardis's reputation? How might churches strive for a similar kind of reputation today?
- If one were "church shopping" in the 7 churches of Revelation, how might they be ranked?
- What are the 5 correctives Jesus gives this church? Briefly explain what each means. (A good group exercise... one per person!)
- Why are the few left in Sardis dressed in white? What does that mean? Where else do we see people dressed in white in Revelation?
- How might the promised rewards to the few left be particularly encouraging to them? Are these rewards promised to everyone in the church in Sardis?
- If Christ were to come today, how would he find your deeds? Our deeds? What needs strengthening? What is incomplete?

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ Worship and Witness in a Winner-takes-all World (7) *Wake Up! Watch Out! Get Busy!* Jerry Cisar — October 30, 2022

Text: Revelation 3:1-6

### Introduction

Despite its wealth and security, Sardis was not all that! And apparently neither is the church that worships in that place.

### I. Christ's Credentials (3:1ab)

A. Sardis

B. "Him who holds the seven spirits of God"

- i. In Revelation 1, this phrase falls between the Father and the Son in a Trinitarian formula.
- ii. It is also likely reference is to the 7 spirits mentioned in Isaiah 11 in the LXX.

C. "Him who holds the Seven Stars"

- i. The seven stars are the angels of the 7 churches (Rev. 1:20).

*There is more than what meets the eye going on in your church!*

- ii. Despite how things may appear, the church is a spiritual entity that operates in a spiritual world.
- iii. It counters the claims of the emperor.

➤ Eph. 1:21-23

## II. Christ's Commendation

## III. Christ's Critique (3:1b)

- A. "I know your deeds"
  - James 2:17-18
- B. "I know your reputation"
  - i. *Onoma*, most often translated *name*, appears 4x.
  - ii. BDAG (714.4): recognition accorded a person on the basis of performance, (well-known) name, reputation, fame.
  - iii. By all outward appearances, they are very much alive!
- C. They are dead!
  - Matthew 23:27-28
- D. What was the source of this reputation?
  - i. Compare this prophetic message to two others...
    - a) Smyrna (2:9)
    - b) Laodicea (3:17)
  - ii. Being "dead" is related to their works!

## IV. Christ's Corrective (3:2-3a)

- A. Wake up and watch out!

- B. Strengthen what remains and is about to die.
  - i. There are a few deeds remaining.
    - a) It may refer to what little works the church still has.
    - b) It may refer to the works of the few who remain.
  - ii. The enemy is sneaking up on them and about to devour them spiritually. They better get busy!
- C. Remember what you have **received** and **heard**.
  - i. Philippians 4:9
  - ii. What they had received included the Sermon on the Mount, the Gospel account of Jesus' life, teaching, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension.
- D. Hold it fast!
- E. Repent

## V. Christ's Consequences (3:3b-6)

- A. Negative Consequence (3b)
- B. Positive Consequences (4-6)
  - i. A few names have not soiled their clothes.
  - ii. "They will walk with me dressed in white."
    - a) Rev. 7:13-14
    - b) These robes attest to their purity, just as soiled clothes attest to the others' compromise.