

when armies attacked? What are some things we might trust in that makes us drop our guard spiritually?

4. Jesus gives 5 commands in verses 2-3. Discuss what these things mean and practical ways people can be obedient to them:
 - **Wake up**
 - **Strengthen** the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God
 - **Remember** what you have received and heard
 - **Keep it**
 - **Repent**
5. Why did Jesus choose to point out He has the seven spirits of God (Holy Spirit) and the seven stars (v. 1)? What did this have to do with the problems in the church? How would this impact their ability to keep the commands in verses 2-3?
6. In verse 4, on what basis are the few people **worthy**? What made them different than the majority of people in the church?
7. Jesus says that if they don't obey those commands, He will come to them like a **thief** without them knowing when it will happen. Is He referring to the Second Coming or something else? What would this remind them of in the history of their city?
8. What **Book of Life** is Jesus referring to in v. 5? How might people who believe you can lose your salvation use this verse? How would you answer their arguments and show that true believers have eternal security? What other passages of Scripture would you use?
9. What are 3 main lessons that you will take away from Jesus' letter to the church at Sardis?
10. How might the Lord work through you to make our church truly alive to Jesus?
11. Do you know any people who think they are spiritually alive, but Jesus would say that they are spiritually dead? Pray for them and plan a time to get together with them to tell them how you went from death to life. Explain how they can know for sure that they have forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life through Jesus.

January 19, 2025

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Revelation 3:1-6

“The Things Which Are” – Part 5 Our Glorious Lord’s Message to the Church at Sardis

- I. The Things Which You Have Seen – Revelation 1
- II. **The Things Which Are – Revelation 2-3**
 - A. The Church at **Ephesus** (2:1-7)
 - B. The Church at **Smyrna** (2:8-11)
 - C. The Church at **Pergamum** (2:12-17)
 - D. The Church at **Thyatira** (2:18-29)
 - E. The Church at **Sardis** (3:1-6)
 1. **Place (1)** – “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:
 2. **Portrait (1)** – He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this:
 3. **Praise (1)** – ‘I know your deeds, that you have a **name** that you are alive,’

4. **Problem (1)** – but you are dead.

5. **Prescription (2-3)** – ² ‘**Wake up**, and **strengthen** the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. ³ ‘So **remember** what you have received and heard; and **keep it**, and **repent**. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a **thief**, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

a. **Wake up**

b. **Strengthen**

c. **Remember**

d. **Keep it**

e. **Repent**

6. **Promise (4-6)** – ⁴ ‘But you have a few **people** [names] in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ ‘He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his **name** from the book of life, and I will confess his **name** before My Father and before His angels. ⁶ ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. How important is a church’s **reputation** in the community? What are some things that would give our church a good reputation? What are some things that might give our church a bad reputation? Without naming the church, in what ways have you seen churches compromise what Jesus wants them to be in order to have a good reputation with people in the community?
2. What did Jesus mean when he said to the church in Sardis that it had a name that it was alive, but it was “**dead**”? Did they think they were dead? Did the community think the church was dead? In what sense was the church alive and in what sense was it dead? What are some characteristics of a church that is alive? What are some characteristics of a church that is dead?
3. What do you know about the ancient city of **Sardis** and its natural defenses? How did those natural defenses impact them negatively