



Today's Message

Date: November 24, 2013
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Wake Up!*

Text: Revelation 3:1–6 (ESV)

¹“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.

“ ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

³Remember, 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. ⁴Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The 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. ⁶He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

Introduction: Chapters two and three contain seven letters from Christ to *real* churches. The letters all follow a similar format. Christ evaluates each church, identifying its strengths and weaknesses. Next he offers counsel to help the church persevere. He concludes each with a promise. Churches in every generation exhibit the characteristics of the recipients of these letters and thus need Christ's counsel.

Today's take-home truth: Those who persevere practice repentance and Christ will keep them secure.

I. Description of the Author: The glorified Christ holds the source of life. 1a

A. He sends the Spirit of life.

B. He sends the messengers of life.

II. Evaluation of the church: Christ knows those who are Christian in name only. 1b

A. The church in Sardis had a good reputation . . .

B. but it was spiritually dead.

III. Counsel to the church: Christ commands the “dead” to “live” because he will not abide pretense. 2-3

A. He accepts nothing less than radical change. 2-3a

1. Wake up to the reality of spiritual danger.

2. Take decisive action while hope remains.

3. Focus on what God has said.

4. Obey it . . .

5. from the heart.

B. Otherwise he will come with judgment. 3b

IV. Promise to the church: Christ will honor those who persevere. 4-6

A. He will honor them in this life. 4

B. He will honor them in the life to come. 5-6

1. He will “clothe” them with final salvation.

2. He will not lose a single one.

3. He will present them as his own in heaven.