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The Dead Church

Revelation 3:1-6

I. The Setting / Speaker (v. 1a)

A. The city

B. The church

C. The characteristic of _____ emphasized (Isa. 11:2; Zech. 4:6;
Rev. 1:20; Jer. 20:9)

II. The Sin / Suffering (vv. 1b; 2c)

A. You are _____ (v. 1b) [Matt. 23:27; Eph. 2:1]

B. Your works are _____ (v. 2c) [Phil. 1:6; Jn. 15:5]

III. The Solution (vv. 2-3)

A. Five Steps to Take for Revival

1. _____ up (v. 2a) [Eph. 5:14]
2. _____ what remains (v. 2b) [Eph. 6:10]
3. _____ the Gospel (v. 3a) [1 Cor. 6:11]
4. _____ the faith (v. 3b) [Eph. 4:1-3]
5. _____ of your apathy (3c) [2 Cor. 7:10]

B. One Reason to Obey

1. The _____ of God (v. 3d) [Jn. 15:6]

IV. The Strengths (v. 4)

A. _____ garments (v. 4a) [Rom. 11:2-4]

B. _____ walk (v. 4b) [Rom 13:14]

V. The Summation (vv. 5-6)

A. The faithful over-comer (v. 5a) [1 Jn. 4:4]

B. The forever promise (v. 5b)

1. _____ garments (Rev. 3:18; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9)
2. _____ life (Rev. 13:8; Jn. 10:27-29)
3. _____ confession (1 Jn. 2:1-2)

C. The final counsel (v. 6) [Matt. 11:11-15]

TAKE HOME

- Do you need to wake up and strengthen what remains?
- Do you need to remember, then, what you have received and heard?
- Do you need to be reminded that if you are in Christ you are clothed in white garments?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placeritachurch.com.

1. Read Revelation 3:1. What did we learn about the city and church of Sardis today? Why does Christ reveal Himself this way to this church? How does this relate to your life in our church today? (Isa. 11:2; Zech. 4:6; Rev. 1:20; Jer. 20:9)

2. Read Revelation 3:1b-2. What is the problem in this church? Why does Christ go straight to this instead of words of encouragement as in other letters? What can you learn from this as it applies to your own life? (Matt. 23:27; Eph. 2:1; Phil. 1:6; Jn. 15:50)

3. Read Revelation 3:2-3. What are the five steps in this verse leading to spiritual revival? Which one of these five did you need to hear the most today and how will you apply it in your life?

4. Talk for a minute about repentance. How does that come about? What does that look like in your life?

5. Read Revelation 3:4. What were the strengths of this church? Discuss the difference between soiled garments and white garments in your life. (Rom. 11:2-4; 13:14)

6. Read Revelation 3:5-6. Are all Christians faithful over-comers? Why or why not? What three promises does Christ give at the end of verse 5? How do these relate to your life? (Rev. 7:9; 13:8; Jn. 10:27-29; 1 Jn. 2:1-2; Matt. 11:11-15)

7. What life lessons have you learned today? What change do you think you need to make as result of this letter to Sardis?

“In the pulpit, a mild-mannered man speaks to a mild-mannered people, encouraging them to be more mild-mannered. His messages are filled with poems, book reviews, personal opinions, social commentary, and human interest stories. He has eloquence, but not unction. He has proper dictation, but no dynamic. He is like an old heater that has broken—the blower is still working, but the heat is gone.”

- Steven Lawson, *Final Call*