

## Wake Up Call – Revelation 3:1-6

Who likes to be on the receiving end of a wake-up call?

Who likes to be the one giving a wake-up call?

**Vs. 1 - “The words of him who has the seven spirits of God & the seven stars.”** Jesus speaks on behalf of God b/c He has the fullness of God within Him. He also speaks w/supreme authority over the churches b/c they’re His!

If this is true, then whose opinion matters most when it comes to the reputation of the/a church? Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church!

To the church in Sardis Jesus says, **“I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.” - Vs. 1b** Ouch!!!

They had all the outward signs of a healthy & vibrant church, but Jesus knew that their outward actions were void of true spiritual life!

- You can be present in worship, sing the songs, listen to the sermon, yet not actually engage in the worship of God.
- You can be involved in a thriving small group, participate in the discussions, give the right answers, but not believe them yourself.
- You can serve in a life-giving ministry, yet not be transformed by sharing in the call of Jesus to serve & give your life for the sake of others.

To those of us who fit these descriptions, Jesus says **“Wake up!”**

To be the “Church” is not to go through the motions of meaningless activity!

To be the “Church” is to receive abundant life from Jesus, and to give back to God & others out of what He has given to us!

If you are here this morning, and all of this seems meaningless, would you receive what Jesus offers you today – an abundant life in Him? He will give your life purpose, & in receiving Him you will experience authentic faith.

To others, who have received Him, who have tasted of that abundant life but who have fallen asleep & lost their spiritual fervor, Jesus says...

**“Wake up, & strengthen what remains and is about to die...” – Vs. 2**

Have you ever nursed a plant back to life that was about to die? What was it that brought it to the point of near death? What brought it back to life?

Our spiritual lives function in the same way! If we neglect it, it can/will die. But if we choose to do the things that can bring it back to life it can thrive again.

There were those in Sardis who started off strong, but who had now chosen to coast, instead of running hard through the finish line!

Can I lovingly & pastorally challenge some of us this morning? I have been a part of this congregation for 20 years (3 yrs as a teen & 17 yrs as a pastor). Have some of us taken our foot off the gas? Are we not where we once were?

Jesus said to some in the church of Sardis, & maybe to some of us today as well, **“I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.”-Vs. 2b**

**“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”- Eph. 2:10**

Are the works that God has for you to do, left undone at this point? If you are breathing, God is not done with you yet! This is a wake up call for all of us!

**Vs. 3 - “Remember, what you have received & heard. Keep it, & repent.”**

The parable of the talents – **Matthew 25:14-30. 2 Timothy 1:12-14**

**Vs. 3b - “If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief & you will not know what hour I will come against you.”** Just like the master in the parable!

**Vs. 4 – “Yet you still have a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments...”** As a parent of a 10 month old, I can’t help but laugh!

If we live in this world, the dirt of this world is going to get on us. The question is, what are we doing to keep our garments clean, so that when Jesus looks upon us/our church, He will respond as he did here in vs. 4?

My wife works really hard to keep my clothes clean, but Jesus worked even harder. He made a way so that my clothes may never get dirty again!

**Vs. 4b – “They will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.”** Jesus died to make us clean, but He lives and walks with us to keep us that way!

**Vs.5 -The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, & I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father & before his angels.”** Will this be true of every one of us here this morning? It can be, but we must respond to Jesus’ wake-up call!

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