

**October 25th, 2020**  
**La Jolla Christian Fellowship**  
**REVELATION : Letter To The Seven Churches- To the Church in Sardis**  
**Episode 6**  
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1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup>Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup>Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, **I will come like a thief**, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. <sup>4</sup>Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup>The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. <sup>6</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

**Understanding Sardis:**

- **A crossroads city-**
- **A wealthy city-First mint in all of Asia minor**
- **Known for mixing sexuality with worship to the gods-**
  - **Diana/Artemis:** Diana, in [Roman religion](#), goddess of wild animals and the [hunt](#), identified with the Greek goddess [Artemis](#). Her name is akin to the Latin words *dium* ("sky") and *dus* ("daylight"). Like her Greek counterpart, she was also a goddess of domestic animals. As a [fertility](#) deity she was [invoked](#) by women to aid [conception](#) and delivery.
- **Largest Jewish synagogue in Asia minor-**
  - **Assimilation:** Jews had written their names at the synagogue in Greek rather than in Hebrew, which spoke to their assimilation into Greek culture.

**The Declaration: "WARNING" Vs. 1** To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

- This is the **same declaration** that was given to the church of **Ephesus** whom Jesus promised a removal of their lampstand if they did not repent.
  - **Similar warning to Sardis: Vs.6** The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

**The Deeds:**

- **Alive but dead: Vs. 1** I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

- **Opposite trajectory of Jesus:** To the church in Smyrna he stated in: **Ch 2 Vs 8** “These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.
  - **Assimilation** to the culture was killing the church, Jesus did not come to collaborate but to conquer.
    - The church had moved away from exclusivity. Make peace by tolerance and acceptance.
    - **Culture Consumer vs. Culture Critic**

### **The Challenge: Wake Up - Strengthen - Finish - Remember - Hold Fast - Repent**

**The Warning: Vs. 3** But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

- Twice this city had been conquered at night while the guards slept.

**The Remnant: Vs 4** Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

### **Small Group Questions**

1. The church at Sardis was known for assimilating into the culture rather than creating a contrast to it. Where is that line in our culture today?
2. **Vs. 1** talks about a church that is known to be alive, but one Jesus sees as dying. What could a dying church look like today?
3. The church has debated whether a person who was once saved can lose that very salvation. What do you think **Vs. 5** might be saying to this argument?
4. Jesus tells this church to wake up. What would an "asleep" believer look like today?
5. Jesus talks in **Vs. 4** about some believers in Sardis being a remnant. What would the qualities of a remnant believer or church be today?

**Prov 24:33-34** A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—<sup>34</sup> and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.