

## Questions for further study and application in Revelation 3:1-6

1. Read Revelation 3:1-6. In verse one, what does Jesus say about this church? Why do you think they had a “name” (or reputation) they were alive? Is it possible for churches to appear alive and dynamic and actually not be? What does this tell us about how churches should be evaluated?
2. Notice it is Jesus alone (not the other churches) who could absolutely and accurately discern that most of the church at Sardis was not saved. Do you think it’s important we remember this?
3. Read Matthew 7:15-21. The Lord is teaching about the evidence (the fruit reveals the tree) of salvation not the cause of it. Focus on 7:21-23. What types of things does Jesus say these people mistakenly thought would get them to heaven? What are things today that people think will do this for them? Did you ever think this way? What changed you?
4. On a scale of 1-10, how confident and sincere do you think the people in Matthew 7:21-23 were about their salvation? Does this happen today? Are religious people today often very confident of their salvation? Why? What was Jesus response to their vehement claims that they were Christians?
5. In Matt. 7:23 what does Jesus say about the lifestyle of these people who claimed to know Him? What did He say this revealed about their relationship with Him? Why do you think people often minimize what Jesus said about continuing in sin being evidence of not knowing Him? Read 1 John 3:8-9. What does it say about this?
6. How would you respond to this common cultural refrain, “As long as a person is sincere and genuinely believes in their religion they will go to heaven?”
7. Read Rev. 3:2-3. What is Jesus’ counsel to the church at Sardis? (Note: the “things that remain” refers to the things in the church “that were about to die.” This is probably the remnant of biblical knowledge and practice they were exhorted to remember in 3:3). Notice, Jesus doesn’t tell them to start something new. He points them back to what they had forgot. How would this apply to churches? To your life?
8. In 3:2 the church is told to “wake up.” He then describes how to do this in 3:2 and the first half of 3:3. What does He tell them to do? How could you describe each one? Why do you think each one is important?
9. Read the last half of 3:3. What does Jesus warn these false Christians of? What do you think the analogy of a thief is intended to convey to them? Read Luke 12:19-21. What attitude is Jesus trying to remedy by this warning. Often repentance is put off and delayed. Why? Have you ever done that?
10. What promises does the Lord make for those who wake up and repent in 3:4-5?
11. The Lord’s call to “wake up” is not only for professing Christians to come to Him for salvation but a reminder for the remnant of true believers to be fervently walking with Him.  
Which of the following describes where you are in your walk with God:
  - a. I’m dead. I think I may be someone who has a reputation for knowing Christ but I’m not sure now. I want to repent and become a Christian in reality not name only.
  - b. I’m alive but living like a non-Christian. I know the Lord, and have tasted His life in me and need to get back to Him. Instead of repenting of my sin I tend to wallow in it.
  - c. I’m alive and for the most part living for the Lord, but I feel the pull of sin in me. I need to humble myself and repent quicker when the Lord makes me aware of my sin.
  - d. I’m alive and living fairly consistently for Him. I keep my sins confessed and turn from them fairly quickly when the Lord makes me aware of them.