

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Revelation 3:1-6 – Part 2

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Revelation 3:1-6.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

He who has the seven Spirits of God  
and the seven stars,

says this:

‘I know your deeds,  
that you have a name that you are alive,  
but you are dead.

<sup>2</sup>Wake up,

and strengthen the things  
that remain,  
which were about to die;  
for I have not found your deeds completed  
in the sight of My God.

<sup>3</sup>So remember what you have received  
and heard;

and keep it,  
and repent.

Therefore, if you do not wake up,  
I will come like a thief,  
and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

<sup>4</sup>But you have a few people in Sardis  
who have not soiled their garments;  
and they will walk with Me in white,  
for they are worthy.

<sup>5</sup>He who overcomes will thus be clothed  
in white garments;  
and I will not erase his name from the book of life,  
and I will confess his name before My Father  
and before His angels.

<sup>6</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

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1. Sardis was known for its woven textile industry. How might the imagery of soiled garments find a particular emphasis in a city with this cultural context?
2. According to one commentator “Those with soiled garments were removed from the public lists of citizens in Sardis. In the pagan religions it was forbidden to approach the gods in garments that were soiled or stained (*Expositors Bible Commentary, 446*).” How does this context impact your understanding of this illustration with reference to this church in Sardis?
3. How might passages such as 1 Cor. 8:7, 2 Cor. 7:1, and Jude 23 influence the way you understand the imagery of soiled garments?
4. How does the letter to the church in Sardis expose their overemphasis on outward appearance instead of inward purity? In what ways does this show up in your own life?
5. What does it mean *to walk* with Jesus? What does it mean to walk with him *in white*?
6. Look up these references. How do they provide color to your understanding of this letter to Sardis? (Ps. 51:7, Ecc. 9:8, Is. 1:18, Dan. 7:9, Matt. 28:3, Rev. 7:14, Rev. 19:8).

❖ Day 2

Read Revelation 3:1-6 again.

7. How is the permanence of Christ’s promise displayed in how he describes those who overcome?

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8. Read Exodus 32:32-33 and examine the surrounding context. How might this passage influence your understanding of the names recorded in the book of life?
  
9. According to some historians, Christians who were loyal to Christ instead of the culture were at risk of being stripped of their citizenship. How does Christ's promise to the faithful show the surpassing worth of Christ in comparison to the world?
  
10. In what ways do you place greater worth on your name and reputation being on a cultural "list" than it being in the book of life? How can you cultivate a deeper conviction and devotion to Christ instead of the world?
  
11. Read Philippians 3:18-21. How does this passage pair with the letter to the church in Sardis? What does it look like to live as a citizen of heaven instead of the world?
  
12. When you evaluate your one deeds and activity in the church, in what ways are they visibly active but maybe not spiritually vibrant?

❖ Day 3

Read Revelation 3:1-6 again.

13. How should the knowledge of Christ in reference to all our motives and actions and activity in our spiritual life (or the lack thereof) compel us toward faithfulness?

