

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Revelation 3:1-6

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.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

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

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1. Revelation 1:4 mentions the seven Spirits as does Revelation 3:1. To what/who is the seven spirits a reference?
2. The seven stars mentioned in 3:1 were previously explained in 1:20. What do the seven stars symbolize?
3. What aspect of the speaker is emphasized in verse 1 by identifying him as the one who possesses the seven spirits of God and the seven stars?
4. What is the reputation of the church in Sardis according to verse 1?
5. What is the condition of the church in Sardis? What is known about them?
6. Who is the one who makes the determination of the state of the church in Sardis?

❖ Day 2

Read Revelation 3:1-6 again.

7. What two things does verse 2 call the church in Sardis to do?
8. What is the reason given for the commands in the vs 2?

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9. What does it mean in verse 2 for their deeds to not be completed?

10. The end of verse 2 explains that this assessment is in the sight of God. What does that statement emphasize about the relationship between God and the church?

11. The beginning of verse 3 gives the key action involved in waking up. What is that action? What might this action practically look like?

12. What two actions should follow remembering according to verse 3?

13. What had the church heard that it needs to keep?

❖ Day 3

Read Revelation 3:1-6 again.

14. What is the motivation for waking up according to the end of verse 3?

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15. Other passages talk about coming as a thief in the night (Matthew 24:42-44, 2 Peter 3:10, 1 Thess. 5:2, Revelation 16:15, etc.) Investigate some of these. What color do these passages add to Revelation 3:3.

16. Is this passage likely talking about the coming as a thief in the night in regard to the return of Christ or some other judgment on this church? Support your answer.

17. What descriptors are given of the “few” in Sardis?

18. What do the descriptors of the “few” indicate about who they are in contrast with the majority of the Church in Sardis?

19. What is the outcome for those who overcome?

20. What other mentions of the book of life are made in Revelation? How do those references shape your understanding of this promise?

21. Look up Luke 12:8-9 and compare it to verse 5. What does this tell you about those who overcome?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would remember what we have heard, keep it, and repent.