

Series: Evaluating the Health of Your Heart

Message Title: *Sardis—The Dead Church With A Great Reputation*

Primary Texts: Revelation 3:1-6

Date: August 9, 2020

1. The steps to a dead church are _____.

2. Jesus urges believers to _____.

3. True believers are promised that they _____.

Revelation 3:1-6

¹ 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.'"

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Read **Revelation 2:4; 2:14-15; :20-23; 3:1-4**. What did Jesus say was wrong in the churches in Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira and Sardis? What pattern do you see in the spiritual decay of these churches? Why is it important for believers to understand this pattern? How can we prevent this from happening in our lives and in the church today? Read **Revelation 2:8-11**. Why do you think Jesus only said positive things about this church?
2. Read **Matthew 26:9-10; Luke 24:19; John 7:21; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2** and **Titus 3:14**. What does the word “deeds” mean in these passages? Read **Acts 5:4; 26:20; Romans 8:13; Gal. 5:19; 2 Peter 2:8; 3 John 10** and **Jude 15**. These passages give us another sense of the word “deeds.” What is the second definition? Now which definition do you think is used in **Revelation 3:2**? Therefore, what is Jesus telling the people in the church in Sardis to do?
3. Read **Hebrews 2:1-4; 2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1-2; Jude 3, 17** and **Revelation 3:3**. Here Jesus urges the church to remember what they had received and heard. What was Jesus referring to? Why is Scripture so important for believers? Read **1 Corinthians 13:1-7**. How do we know how to love? Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. What is the benefit of Scripture? Read **1 Thessalonians 2:13**. What is the benefit of Scripture according to this verse?
4. Read **1 John 5:4-5**. Who are overcomers? Read **Revelation 3:5**. What three things will happen to overcomers? Read **Revelation 21:7**. What does this verse say will happen to believers? Historical background tells us that the citizens in the city of Sardis were listed in a book of the living. When someone died, their name was removed from the list. How does this help us understand the meaning of “I will not erase his name from the book of life”? So, what promise did Jesus give to all believers?