

7 LETTERS – REVIVING A DEAD CHURCH

SMALL GROUP NOTES 03/11/19

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SCRIPTURE

Revelation 3:1-6

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

The fifth letter is to the church in Sardis, one of the oldest cities in Asia. The city had once had much fame and wealth but now found its identity and reputation in that past, and the church reflected that too: it had a reputation of being alive, but had faded. We see that Jesus has no positive words to say about her, despite her being celebrated by the words of others. This is an important warning, that the church can begin to set success by worldly standards that bring death, not life in the eyes of God. Jesus cares most about people's hearts, not their works and He knows if we are a people who love God first and foremost and genuinely love those around us, or if it's all a show. The call is to wake up and return to the truth of the gospel. Our hope of moving from death to life is in the power of the Spirit, sent by the risen Christ.

QUESTION FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. How does Jesus omniscience guide the church to faithfulness and reveal His care?
2. Should a church strive to have a good reputation? How could this hide weakness in the church?
3. What does it mean to remember or preach the gospel to yourself every day? What tools can you use to help you with this?
4. How do the promises of God encourage us to remain faithful to the gospel and the gospel works He has for us now?