

“Seven: Hope from Jesus in Revelation”

(Part 6)

The Fifth Letter: To the Church in Sardis

Sunday, March 24th, 2019

Revelation 1:6-8 (NLT)

6He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

7Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven.

And everyone will see him—

even those who pierced him.

And all the nations of the world

will mourn for him.

Yes! Amen!

8“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

Revelation 3:1-6 (NLT)

1“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars:

“I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead. 2Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God. 3Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and

turn to me again. If you don't wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.

4“Yet there are some in the church in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes with evil. They will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.

6“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”

ARE YOU REPEATING *YOUR OWN* HISTORY?

WILL YOU BE CAUGHT “SLEEPING” WHEN JESUS RETURNS?

C.S. Lewis said,

“Anyone who has ever taught or attempted to lead others knows the tendency in all of us toward exaggerating our depth of character while treating leniently our flaws. We consciously or subconsciously put forward a better image of ourselves than really exists. The outward appearance and the inner reality (that only God, we, and our family members know) do not match.”

“I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.” (Rev. 3:1b)

HAVE YOU STOPPED GROWING? IF SO, WHY?

IS IT BECAUSE LIFE IS SO HARD OR THE OPPOSITE, SO YOU HAVEN'T REALLY NEEDED TO EXERCISE YOUR FAITH IN A LONG TIME?

2 "Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God." (Rev. 3:2)

IF WE AREN'T SPIRITUALLY AWAKE, WE ARE VULNERABLE TO AN ATTACK FROM THE ENEMY.

LIFE CYCLE OF A CHURCH:

Movement

Organization

Institution

Museum

CHANGE IS HARD

"Discipleship: Growing People Change"

"We really don't fear change as much as we fear losing something or someone we love."

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT CHANGE IN YOUR OWN LIFE,
WHAT OR WHO ARE YOU AFRAID TO LOSE?

*5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."
(Matthew 7:5)*

*3 Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. **Repent and turn to me again.** If you don't wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief. (Rev. 3:3)*

WAKE UP!: AWAKEN CHURCH