

## **Sardis Church: You Can't Fake It | Revelation 3:1-6**

February 17, 2019

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

“I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Have someone read Revelation 3:1-6 aloud. What feelings emerge when you read a letter like this, devoid of any positive feedback?
2. Prior to learning the backstory of Sardis, what was your initial understanding of the passage?
3. After being confronted with the context about the city of Sardis’ initial health and wealth—and eventual downfall, did your understanding and interpretation of the message to Jesus’ believers in Sardis change? If so, how?
4. Review last week’s statement: *Salvation is a process.*
  - How does the phrase “*You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead,*” potentially inform your view of salvation?
  - How does Jesus’ promise to “*never blot (your) name out of the book of life*” potentially inform your view of salvation?
  - Does this passage contradict itself? Can a loving warning be a means God uses to persevere His saints and keep his promise to them?
5. How do you "choose your name?"
  - How do you process this message, communally, as your group?
  - How do we process this message, communally, as the church of Fort Mill?
6. Pray for one another and give thanks.