

Revelation 3:1-6
“Are You Dead or Alive”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Rev. 3:1-6)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “Are You Dead or Alive”

~ INTRO ~

REMEMBER...THE BOOK OF REVELATION...

- Is the unveiling of Christ!
 - AND in (chapters 2 & 3)...
 - Jesus is speaking to the different churches...
 - With His observation & input!

JESUS HAS A PERFECT KNOWLEDGE...

- And insight into every church!

NOW... TODAY...

- The only thing He gives the church in Sardis...
 - Is reproof & criticism!
- He's expressing disapproval...
 - Because this church was filled with lifeless professions!
- There was religious movement...
 - (Formal, ritualistic, worldly, & political)
 - But the church lacked born-again Christians.

SO... THIS MESSAGE...

- Is worth repeating in today's church.

LISTEN...

- It may make you uncomfortable...
 - But whatever God speaks... is FOR good.
 - Jesus came to rescue!

Revelation 3:1-6
“Are You Dead or Alive”

WE'RE A CULTURE...

- That has lost the value of truth...
 - And have placed a heavy emphasis upon being non-judgmental.
- YET... the reality according to Gods word...
 - Is that both “Truth & Criticism” go hand in hand (2 Tim. 3:16).

THIS WORD FROM JESUS...

- Cuts right to the core.

~ BACKGROUND ~

SARDIS... Means = Escaping OR renovation.

SARDIS...

- Was a City that sat at a junction point connecting five main roads...
 - That were trade routes.

SARDIS...

- Had a reputation of being an unconquerable city...
 - Because it stood 1,500 feet above the valley floor...
 - And there was only one-way in & one-way out!

SARDIS WAS A WEALTHY CITY...

- They minted gold & silver coins...
 - But, their primary industry was harvesting wool for clothing.

SO...

- The history behind this City plays into the theme...
 - Because they took for granite both their wealth & security...
 - And thought they were ok with God!

THE CHURCH IN SARDIS WAS ASLEEP...

- They believed biblical truths, but remained unrepentant...
 - And without spiritual life in Christ!
- Let use a term we better understand.
 - The people were secularized.

Revelation 3:1-6
“Are You Dead or Alive”

Secularized Defined:

“Disassociated or separated from spiritual concerns.”

THE CHURCH HAD A NAME OF BEING ALIVE...

- But was populated with unregenerate people!
 - Because they were NOT under the control of Christ!

POINT #1 – THIS IS NOT GOOD: (v.1)

(v.1)...

- God is telling John to communicate His heart to this church!

AND THE FIRST THING HE MENTIONS...

- Is the seven Spirits of God or **the characteristics of God’s Spirit!**

➤ Let’s define them by going to (Isa. 11:2) NLT.

THE SEVEN SPIRITS ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS:

1. *The Spirit of the Lord...*

- ✓ A simple dependence on His power in our life!

2. *The Spirit of wisdom...*

- ✓ Speaks of the ability to handle ourselves wisely.

3. *The Spirit of understanding...*

- ✓ The capacity to see things from the Lords perspective.

4. *The Spirit of counsel...*

- ✓ The capacity to listen, judge, & give godly advice.

5. *The Spirit of might...*

- ✓ Power to do God’s will, in God’s way.

6. *The Spirit of knowledge...*

- ✓ The aptitude to understand the word of God.

Revelation 3:1-6
“Are You Dead or Alive”

7. *The Spirit of fear of the Lord...*

- ✓ Healthy reverence toward God that produces holiness.

NEXT JESUS SAYS... *“I know all the things you do...”*

- This is not the first time Jesus has said this (Matt. 7:21-23) NLT.
 - The greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart...
 - Not to do works without Him!

THE CHURCH IN SARDIS...

- Was asleep = it was dead!
 - In modern terms we would say it's a *“Nominal” church...*
 - Because it existed in name only.

LITERALLY... MOST OF THE PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW JESUS!

POINT #2 – WAKE UP: (vv.2-3)

(v.2)

- *“Be watchful”* (NKJV) or literally **WAKE UP** (NLT)!

(Eph. 5:14) NLT

- *“Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead and Christ will give you light.”*

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST...

- Is where the power of God resides!

AND THE MESSAGE TO SARDIS...

- Speaks to the church today & those of you in this room tonight!

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ONE WHO BRINGS LIFE...

- So if you're *“winging it”*
 - You're NOT fooling God!

(v.3) Read

NOW... THE PARADOX IS...

- Those who originally got this letter in Sardis...
 - Gloated on the safety of their high city upon the rocks.
 - (Again 1,500 feet above the valley floor.)

Revelation 3:1-6
“Are You Dead or Alive”

HOWEVER... HISTORY RECORDS...

- This City fell asleep and was attacked by its enemies...
 - Because the soldiers fell asleep on the wall.

POINT #3 – UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE: (vv.4-6)

Read (vv.4-6)

SIMPLY PUT...

- Jesus said to the Church in Sardis...
 - AND to the Church in 2020...
 - Is wake up!!!
- Again the indication is the vast majority were already asleep.

~ IN CLOSING ~

JESUS IS SPEAKING TRUTH...

- To the church today!

HOWEVER... IT CAN BE TOUGH!

- (Matt. 7:13-14) NLT

IS THERE ANYBODY HERE...

- That needs to get right with Jesus tonight?

GOD GIVES GREAT MERCY!

- And His attitude toward sinners is grace...
 - BUT there IS a certain call to repentance!

SO... IF YOU NEED GET RIGHT WITH JESUS...

- Do it tonight...
 - And talk with the men & women upfront.

~ LET'S PRAY ~