

7

KEYS

for growth & change

Part 5

I. Introduction:

Moments of Insight from Jesus:

Church of EPHESUS - Remember – Repent – Repeat

Church of SMYRNA - He is real, He is near, and He knows

Church of PERGAMUM - The light of truth helps you recognize danger

Church of THYATIRA - Keep your guard up

Revelation 3:1-6 *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. '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. '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. '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.

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. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

II. Background

Your **REPUTATION** is not your **REALITY**

¹⁸ *I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.*

1. Reputation vs. **CHARACTER**
2. Your Reputation can't give you **LIFE**
3. You have some **GAPS** between your reputation and reality
4. The City of Sardis - their reputation was built on **PAST GLORIES**
5. The Church of Sardis was a **REFLECTION** of the city

Jesus said the church was **DEAD** – while promising **HOPE** and help they had **NOTHING**, gave **NOTHING** and helped **NO ONE**

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, Help me to see the gaps in my life"

III. Jesus says, "WAKE UP" and **STRENGTHEN** the things that **REMAIN**

MOMENT of INSIGHT: Don't Give up! Wake Up and Get up!

- a. WAKE UP, **WATCH**, BE **ALERT** are commands for all Christians
- b. **STRENGTHEN** what remains

IV. Jesus says, "**REMEMBER** what you have received and heard; and keep it, and **REPENT**."

- a. **HOLD FAST** to what is right
- b. 'Repent' means **TO TURN**, do things **DIFFERENTLY**
- c. The **WARNING!!**

"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."

Prayer : "Lord Jesus, Help me close the gaps in my life"

V. The **HOPE**

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. 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. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

- a. Jesus knows who IS still **ALIVE!**
- b. You can **OVERCOME**
 - i. The Overcomer will wear **WHITE GARMENTS**
 - ii. The overcomer will find his name in the **BOOK OF LIFE**

Prayer: "Lord I will Overcome"

"Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you. Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:14-16