

V. SARDIS: NEAR DEATH

Revelation 3:1-6

I. Church: SARDIS (v1)

II. Characteristics of Speaker (v1): Having

- A. The Holy Spirit (see 1:4-5)
- B. The pastors of the churches (see 1:20)

III. Criticism (v1-2):

You have a reputation for being **alive**, but you are spiritually **dead!**

- A. Busy: but deeds incomplete, empty
- B. Slothful: from Latin "acedia": "not care"; spiritual listlessness
 1. Focus on activity rather than the heart
 2. Look for worship to entertain or give *feeling* of connection with God
 3. Compromise with sin because lack Gospel and Spirit power to follow Jesus (cf. v4)

IV. Counsel/Commands (v2-3): **WAKE UP!**

- A. **R** _____ the smoldering embers that are about to die
Wake up and see your condition. Be honest.
- B. **R** _____ the Gospel: obey it and repent!
Christ died for sluggards like you/me

V. Consequence: NEG (v3):

If NOT: I will come upon you like a thief and it will be too late.
Precursor to the Second Coming in judgment
(cf. 1:5 to Ephesus)

VI. Commendations & Encouragement:

There are a few of you who walk with Me in white [robes of Righteousness] (see 7:9, 13-14)
They are "axios": (remember Eph 4:1) their lives are in **balance** with the Gospel; not inconsistent with Robe of Righteousness

V. Consequence: POS (v5):

If OVERCOMER: dressed in white = name in Book of Life =
Jesus will acknowledge him/her before His Father (and His angels)

VII. Call to Heed:

So what:

Most vital Q: **Is your life in balance with the Gospel?**

(not perfectly, but enough that others see His life in you: things about you that only Jesus in you can account for)

Example of tests: the marks of I John
Or I Thess 1

Do you need to revive the smoldering embers of faith in and love for Jesus in your life this morning?

WAKE UP! Before He comes like a thief and it is too late for you.

You adults who live in the Christian subculture simply out of habit but without a vital love or faith...

You teens who remember feelings you had for Jesus as a child that are totally foreign to you now...