



Sermon Guide Questions

"Christ's Message to the Church at Sardis"

Revelation 3:1-6

September 20, 2015

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Optional Opener:

How do you prefer to wake up in the morning, with a loud alarm of some kind or by a more subtle way?

Questions by Dr. Harold Sala:

1. Having noted that there is a departure from the commendations made to the first four churches — Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, and Thyatira — why does this message to the fifth church in Sardis begin with a rebuke?

What is the contrast between reputation and reality in Sardis?

2. The Greek word for church, ecclesia, literally means, "called out ones." From what are we "called out?" Thoughts?

3. Archaeologists have noted that an early church in Sardis was located next to the great Temple of Aphrodite (goddess of sex). Is this significant of the clash in cultures that the church as the body of Christ has experienced down through the centuries? Thoughts?

4. There is a warning given to the church at Sardis that their works are incomplete and unless the situation is remedied immediately, there will be rebuke like a thief in the night. Please read Matthew 24:42-44 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2.

What hope does Jesus communicate to the people of the church in Sardis?

5. What are your thoughts in relationship to the "work of the church" today? What is the great work of the church (as the body of Christ) today?

Practical application:

6. What cautions exist for Christians if or when we rely on an image or presentation of ourselves, instead of nurturing a genuine spiritual life?

7. What obstacles to nurturing a spiritual life might there be in your life? What do you imagine would help you (re) discover the God-given fulfillment that comes from nurturing a spiritual, devotional life in relationship with Christ?