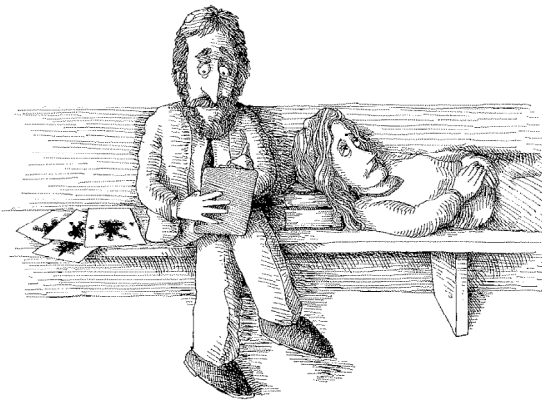


**JESUS' LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN REVELATION 2-3**  
**LETTER 5 | THE CHURCH AT SARDIS: THE DEAD CHURCH**  
**REVELATION 3:1-6 | 25 OCTOBER 2009**  
**2ND STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**GREGG LAMM, lead pastor-teacher | www.2ndstreet.org**

When was the last time you were bored in church? No, not today! It's happened to all of us. I think that it's a sin to bore people. But as much as I love to study and teach God's WORD, and as much as Linnea and our worship, drama, and tech people love to plan and lead worship ... we're human, and nobody bats 1.000.

Well thank goodness, there's a book by Tim Sims and Dan Pegoda called *101 Things To Do During A Dull Sermon*. It's a real lifesaver ... and it has chapter titles like "Stimulating Your Mind When The Sermon Doesn't" and "Aerobics For The Church Pew". Here are a couple of my favorites ... "The Ink Blot Test" and "Rebus".

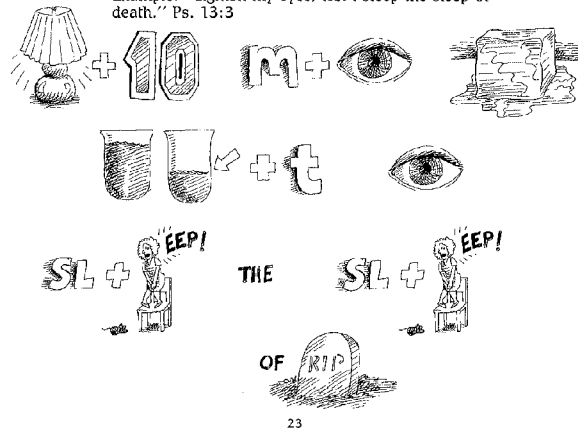


**Ink Blot Test**

Make ink blots on the bulletin and have a companion guess what they represent. Now analyze your companion's responses and suggest that your companion see a psychiatrist.

**18 Rebus**

Create a rebus using the sermon text for the day.  
 Example: "Lighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death." Ps. 13:3



This morning as we continue our study of the seven letters Jesus wrote to the seven churches in **REVELATION 2-3**, we come to the fifth letter ... the one written to the Church at Sardis. And if there was ever a church that you could have used the suggestions from Dan and Tim's book at, it was this one. And so it should come as no surprise that the Church at Sardis is referred to a **THE DEAD CHURCH**. Remember, that there's a theme to each one of the letters Jesus wrote and sent to the seven churches in Asia Minor (now, modern-day Turkey). And here they are ...

**REVELATION 2:1-6**  
**REVELATION 2:7-11**  
**REVELATION 2:12-17**  
**REVELATION 2:18-29**  
**REVELATION 3:1-6**

**EPHESUS**  
**SMYRNA**  
**PERGAMUM**  
**THYATIRA**  
**SARDIS**

**THE LOVELESS CHURCH**  
**THE SUFFERING CHURCH**  
**THE COMPROMISING CHURCH**  
**THE CORRUPTED CHURCH**  
**THE DEAD CHURCH**

## MAP OF ASIA MINOR (MODERN-DAY TURKEY) ...



Sardis is about 50 miles Northeast of Ephesus and 30 miles South of Thyatira. It used to be under the authority of Thyatira, but within 50 years of gaining its independence around the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup>-Century A.D., it had fallen into a *less than glorious state*. And interestingly, there were two incidents in its history that parallel the state of **BOREDOM**, **SLEEPINESS**, and **DEATH** that the Church of Sardis found itself in when it received this letter from Jesus.

And the Apostle Paul offers an admonition in **FIRST CORINTHIANS 10:12** that we'd do well to listen to while studying this letter to the **BORED**, **SLEEPY**, and **DEAD** church.

### **FIRST CORINTHIANS 10:12 (CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION)**

**<sup>12</sup> Even if you think you can stand up to temptation, be careful [take heed] not to fall.**

The word for **think** in this verse comes from the word **dokeo (dok-eh'-o)**, which means, **to be of the opinion, to suppose, or to count as**. And in this context Paul is speaking of **what a person thinks or supposes about himself**. In other words, there's nothing else to verify that the person's opinion, or what he has counted as truth for himself is correct; only that it's what he really believes about himself. And in a minute you'll see why this is an important distinction.

The word Paul uses for **stand up** comes from the Greek word **istemi (his'-tay-mee)**, which simply means **to stand fast, firm, or upright**. But when the words **dokeo istemi** are used together like Paul uses them in this verse, they mean ...

**“So if there's anyone who has *the self-imposed opinion* of himself that he is standing strong and firm, be careful, or take heed, not to fall.”**

The words **“be careful”** or **“take heed”** are from the Greek word **blepo (blep'-o)**, which means **to watch, to see, to behold, or to be aware**. And the Greek Tense Paul uses indicates the need to not only **watch**, but **to be continually watching**. And so Paul is commanding us in this verse to **live with focus, with intent, and with the humble knowledge** that like Rich Mullins wrote in a song, **“we are not as strong as we think we are”** ... and that as maturing disciples of Jesus Christ, we need to be in a **constant state of watchfulness** regarding **the firm spiritual stance we're so sure we possess**. And why does Paul insist that we be so diligently **watchful**, and **attentive**?

The word **“fall”** is the Greek word **pipto (pip'-to)**, and it's used over 80 times in *The New Testament*, here and most often to illustrate someone who **falls into a deeper, worse, or more dangerous place than he was in before**. So Paul isn't talking about

a little “stub your toe” situation. Rather, he’s talking about **falling from a formerly high and safe position into ruin**. He’s talking about a **downward spiral or plummet**.

And two times throughout its history the city of Sardis was completely overthrown ... as they’d **fell down from a formerly high and safe position**. They thought they were **strong** and **undefeatable**. But because they **weren’t watching** what was happening, because they **weren’t careful**, and **didn’t take heed**, they found out just how vulnerable they really were. Let me tell you what happened.

Sardis sat on the top of some cliffs that everyone in the city thought were nearly impossible to climb. Sure, the enemy could have come into the city like everyone else, from the backside. But a surprise attack? It was out of the question. Maybe it was kind of like the *Cliffs of Insanity* in the book *The Princess Bride*. And so, because of their remote location and the cliffs below them, the people living in Sardis didn’t believe they’d ever be conquered. But they were wrong about this, because once in the 7<sup>th</sup>-Century B.C., and then again in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-Century B.C. they were overthrown.

And with this cocky attitude, the people of Sardis become complacent. And as their apathy grew stronger, they smugly concluded that they were untouchable. And from this place of blind-pride, they stopped giving careful attention to the condition **of the foundation of their city**. In fact, for generations they ignored the cracks that had begun to appear in the foundations and the walls at the base of the cliffs.

At first, the cracks were barely noticeable. But as time went by, like all cracks, they grew deeper and wider ... until finally, they became so spacious that a person could slip through them. And yet the people of Sardis still didn’t see their vulnerability.

And then one night, while the residents of Sardis slept, the Cimmerians in the 7<sup>th</sup>-Century, and then the Greeks in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-Century, scaled up the cliffs, slipped through the cracks in the foundations and walls of the city ... and in less than an hour, gained the military position needed to take over the city with little resistance. And when everyone walked out the next morning and realized they’d been surrounded by the enemy, they surrendered. And this happened twice ... 400 years apart. What is they say? **“Ignore the lessons of history and we’re doomed to repeat them.”**

Can you relate? I mean, sometimes we’re defeated by our own stupidity and pride. At other times it’s our own neglect, or unwillingness to simply wake up and smell the coffee. Sure, sometimes we get chewed up and spit out through no fault of our own ... we get sick or we’re the victim of someone else’s choices. This world is busted by sin, so bad things happen, even to good people. Take a number and get in line, right? But if we’re honest, we’ll all admit that many of our struggles aren’t the result of some kind of cosmic hoax that’s somehow left God laughing and us crying ... but that much of the time when we’re beat up, it’s because of our own choices.

Think back to when you were a student ... or maybe you don’t have to think back very far. You have a class and you know that for **every four hours in class, you should be spending eight hours outside of class** ... reading, preparing, studying, writing, etc ... You know this. The syllabus says it. You’ve been told by your professor and by your peers. But you ignore it. And then ... oh say ... around week thirteen of your fifteen-week class, you decide to put it into high gear. For thirteen weeks, if you’d spent

eight hours per week doing the right thing you would have tallied up 104 hours of investment. Imagine what you could have done!

But because you chose a different path, soon you're looking at websites whose banner headlines scream out ... "**BUY TERM PAPERS ... 1000S TO CHOOSE FROM.**" You can order 24/7. You feel your VISA card heating up, as you think you can make up for those 104 hours by taking a short cut. But it won't work, and you'll be defeated. Because when we refuse to stay awake to what's going on around us, and inside of us ... and when we take the low road instead of the high road ... and when we're not paying attention to the condition of our foundation, we end up being defeated, discouraged, and disgusted with ourselves. Sorry to be **JOHNNY RAIN CLOUD**, but sometimes the truth hurts. Especially the truth about ourselves.

Which brings us to our first **FAITH LESSON** this morning ... it's a paraphrase of **FIRST CORINTHIANS 10:12** ...

**FAITH LESSON ...**

**Don't be deceived into thinking you're standing strong in your own strength. Instead, stay intentionally on guard, continually watchful, and consistently God-dependent. You're not the exception to the rule. Anyone standing in their own strength will be *overly confident* in themselves, and *underly confident* in God. And this unstable spiritual posture and perspective will soon lead to an out-of-control, failed spiritual life.**

So when the Church at Sardis receives this letter, it's 95-96 A.D. and it's on the downhill side of being prosperous once again ... having gained a reputation now for its dying of wool. It used to be famous for all kinds of things, but after two defeats, and a devastating earthquake earlier in the 1<sup>st</sup>-Century, it's lost some of its momentum, reputation and self-esteem. And now all the city of Sardis is famous for is that it has the corner on wool dying. Both the city, and the church were hollow shells of what they used be. The city of Sardis slept and was overtaken. The Church of Sardis, through denial and neglect fell into spiritual deadness. And likewise, when you and I close our eyes to how we're doing spiritually, we're fair game for the Enemy, for falling asleep, and for being taken over.

**JESUS GIVES THE SEVEN CHUCHES ...**

<b>COMMENDATION OR PRAISE</b>	<b>WHAT THEY'RE DOING RIGHT</b>
<b>CRITICISM OR JUDGMENT</b>	<b>WHAT THEY'RE DOING WRONG</b>
<b>INSTRUCTION OR CORRECTION</b>	<b>HOW THEY CAN MAKE CHANGES</b>
<b>PROMISE OR BLESSING</b>	<b>THE FRUIT OF THESE CHANGES</b>
<b>EXHORTATION</b>	<b>FINAL WORDS OF WISDOM</b>

Unlike most of the other six letters sent by Jesus in **REVELATION 2-3**, the letter to Sardis has no **COMMENDATION**, and no weighty **CRITICISM**. There was no real scandal, and they weren't rebuked for any heresy. Instead, it was like the church had a **form of Christianity**, but **the reality of Jesus Christ** was denied or ignored. The

church had doctrines and creeds, but it was lifeless ... it was simply **EXISTING**. How did this happen?

Well, I think that it was because, as a church, it wasn't staying aware of its own needs, or of the needs of the people in their town. It was just plodding along ... believing its highest calling was to write up doctrines, creeds, and mottoes (kind of like in our drama this morning) and then adhere to what they'd written up with all their might. And in doing so, they'd sacrificed the "**reality of Jesus Christ**" for a "**form of religion or godliness**" (cf., **SECOND TIMOTHY 3:5**).

It's like the people in the church at Sardis were once **spiritually alive** but now they were just kind of in a **spiritual comma**. They weren't **really dead**, but that they were as close to death as they could get and still have a pulse. But ... and here's the exciting thing ... Jesus tells them that if they'd become willing to do certain things, that He would take them through a transformation, bring them out of their comma, and that they could once again become effective for the Kingdom of God.

When I was in Seminary in the early 1980s, a classmate named Gary Metzenbacher asked me, "**Gregg, what is God doing in your life today?**" Gang, that is not a superficial way to begin a conversation. It isn't just idle "God talk." It's a great question, and it caught me off guard. And Gary's question helped me begin to see that God doesn't just want to be the God of my **PAST**, or the God of my **FUTURE** ... but that most of all, He wants to be the God of my **PRESENT**. Which brings us to our second **FAITH LESSON** this morning ...

### **FAITH LESSON ...**

**The letter Jesus wrote to the people in the Church at Sardis, is a warning to all Christ-followers who are trying to live on their PAST spiritual glories and their PAST spiritual experiences with God. God is the God of the PRESENT. And we need to experience Him, know Him, serve Him, worship Him, and be in relationship with Him in the PRESENT.**

And so, in memory of Gary's question to me over 25 years ago, I ask you this morning ... "**What is God doing in your life today?**" The people in the Church of Sardis weren't asking this question. Friends, God is always up to something, but so often we hear a little bit of His whole plan and we hit the "mute" button, thinking we've heard enough ... and then we just of kind of tune out the rest of God's instruction.

We think we've got God's plans for us all figured out and so we set our shoulder to the plow and start plowing. But God is continually **TALKING, REVEALING, and TEACHING**. And that means that you and I need to be **CONTINUALLY LISTENING and DISCERNING**, and **CONSISTENTLY LEARNING and OBEYING**. And we can't do this when we're ignoring God, or when we're spiritually asleep ... like so many of the Christ-followers were in the Church at Sardis.

**REVELATION 3:1a (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)**

**1a “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this:**

As in His four previous letters, Jesus begins by identifying Himself as the letter’s author –this time referring to **REVELATION 1:16** and the reference there that He’s the One who “**holds the seven stars**” and He adds here, “**the seven Spirits of God.**”

The **seven stars** refer to the **pastors of the seven churches** ... and the **seven Spirits of God** doesn’t mean that God has seven Spirits, but it refers to **the presence of God’s Spirit in each of the seven churches** (cf., **EPHESIANS 4:4**). The number **seven** demonstrates **fullness** and **completeness**. So in other words, Jesus is saying that **the Holy Spirit gives fullness of life to people** and Jesus knew that this was exactly what the people in the Church at Sardis needed. They needed the **new life** and **completeness that only this new life of God’s Holy Spirit could bring.**

**REVELATION 3:1b-2 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)**

**1b ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.**

**2 ‘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.**

Jesus knew these folks. He knew their **deeds**, and was well aware of **the things they were doing** in His name. But the problem is that Jesus would rather not have His name associated with **our deeds**, as much as He’d like to have our name associated with **His deeds** and with the things we’re willing to have Him do through us. When Jesus looks at you life, does He see what **you’re trying to do in your own strength for Him**, or is He seeing what **you’re willingly doing with Him**? Big difference.

When we come to God through Jesus Christ, we enter into two arenas of experience with God. We enter into **RELATIONSHIP**, and we enter into **FELLOWSHIP**. And **RELATIONSHIP** and **FELLOWSHIP** are two very different things. And a lot of Christians don’t understand much about the difference.

And because of this lack of understanding, **ON ONE HAND** we’ve got Christians being born again for the third, tenth, or fiftieth times, because they think when they sin they have to start all over again with God. **AND ON THE OTHER HAND** we have Christians who think that once they’ve got their foot in the door of heaven they can live like the devil without any consequences.

But when you and I, as followers of Jesus Christ commit individual acts of sin, our **FELLOWSHIP** with God is broken, but not our **RELATIONSHIP**. I believe that when sin once again becomes a way of life, we can let go of both our **FELLOWSHIP** and our **RELATIONSHIP** with God. But that’s not what Jesus is talking about here. And the Apostle Paul offers us some good teaching about this in **FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:1**.

**FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:1 (NEW CENTURY VERSION)**

**<sup>1</sup> Brothers and sisters, in the past I could not talk to you as I talk to *spiritual people*. I had to talk to you as I would to [*worldly*] people without the Spirit — *babies in Christ*. [emphasis added]**

When we're in **FELLOWSHIP** with God and we don't have unconfessed sin in our lives, we're "**spiritual**". But when we make the choice to try and hide our sins instead of confessing them to God and being forgiven, we're out of **FELLOWSHIP** with God. We're still "**in Christ**" but we're "**worldly**" or like Keith Green put it in a song he wrote in the 1970's, we're **asleep in the light**. And this is what was going on in the lives of the people in church at Sardis. They were **asleep in the light**.

This church was full of people who were "**in Christ**" but because of neglect, because of sin, because of unforgiveness, because they weren't paying attention to the cracks in their spiritual walls, and because of an unwillingness to be people of confession, they were trying to live out their faith "**in the flesh**". And it didn't work then and it won't work now –and Jesus didn't like it then, and He doesn't like it now.

Jesus' words are similar to ones the Apostle Paul used in **ROMANS 13:11** when he wrote, "**The hour has come for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed.**" And then again three or four years later, when Paul wrote the letter to the Church at Ephesus, he said in **EPHESIANS 5:14**, "**Awake sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.**"

When you're out camping, and you don't have all the distractions of modern-day life, what's the first thing you want to do when the sun goes down? Sleep, right? Well, likewise, when Believers walk out of the daylight of righteousness into the darkness of sin, the first thing they do is spiritually go to sleep. And a sleeping person can look a lot like a dead person, right?

**ILLUSTRATION ... If we had 100 dead people lying out in The Armory Parking Lot right now, and among them was one sleeping person, you couldn't tell which one was *only sleeping* just by a casual glance. But if you got close and examined them, you could tell the difference.**

I know this is kind of a gross analogy, but what was going on in the Church at Sardis wasn't pretty. And it's exactly what it's like when you and I, as followers of Jesus Christ are out of **FELLOWSHIP** with God. We "**look like the world**" and "**act like the world**" and you've got to get real close to us to find any sign of actual spiritual life.

So the people in the Church at Sardis were like zombies. And so if you were making a movie about the Church at Sardis, you might call it *Night of The Living Dead Christians*, *Dawn of the Christian Zombies*, or *I Was A Teenage Zombie For Jesus*.

Maybe you can relate to the situation that the Christians in Sardis found themselves in. Maybe in the past, or right now, you're a "**worldly Christian**" ... maybe you're taking your cues about how to *live, talk, think, and act* from the world instead of from Jesus. Sad to say, there's a lot of Christians like this. And it's tragic because when we choose to live this way, the world sees such a distorted example of what it

means to follow Jesus Christ. So the question before us is, “**If you’ve made a commitment to follow Jesus Christ, would most people be able to tell the difference between you and somebody who’s still in the world and not following Jesus Christ?**”

**REVELATION 3:3**

<sup>3</sup> **‘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. (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)**

<sup>3</sup> **Rouse yourselves, keep awake, strengthen and invigorate what remains and is on the point of dying; for I have not found anything that you have done —and work of yours —meeting the requirements of My God or perfect in His sight. (THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE)**

Gang, there’s a reason Jesus writes these words to **remember** and **wake up** with such sharp, staccato commands. They’re like a slap in the face, a splash of cold water, or an urgent cry of alarm. And I see another **FAITH LESSON** as Jesus says to us ...

**FAITH LESSON ...**

**“Look inside yourself and all around you. Open your eyes. Get your life in focus and don’t be afraid to honestly deal with what you see.”**

Jesus’ words aren’t like having a parent come into your bedroom two hours before you have to be at school or at work, gently leaning over your bed and saying, “**Honey, time to start thinking about getting up ... the birds are chirping ... Mr. Sunshine is awake ... but take your time ... no hurry. I’ll check back with you later.**” Jesus’ words here are just the opposite. They’re more like your parent coming into your bedroom two minutes before you’re supposed to be at school or at work and shouting, “**Dude, you over-slept! Wake up, get dressed, and brush your hair. I’ll start the car!**”

**REVELATION 3:3 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)**

<sup>3</sup> **‘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.**

Notice the third word in this verse ... the word “**what**”. That’s an *okay* translation. But the Greek word Jesus uses is **poce**, which literally means **how** or **in what way**. The **what** that the Christians at Sardis heard was the Gospel. They’d heard about the new life relationship with God Jesus offers to everyone who believes in Him. And **what** Jesus is literally asking here is similar to what He wrote in His letter to the Church at Ephesus in **REVELATION 2:1-6**, when He asked the Believers there to **return to Him as their First Love**. And here’s what I hear Jesus saying to the **DEAD CHURCH** at Sardis ... and to you and me gathered here this morning ...

**Friends, *remember* how you heard and received Me? *Remember* how it used to be, when you first came to Me and your faith was really on fire? *Remember* how you were so in love with Me that everything else revolved around Me and My will for your life? What's keeping you from coming back to this place with Me?"**

Jesus is begging us to be honest about our own failure and our own spiritual dullness, and the futility of our self-serving religious activity. He's asking us to look at ourselves and ask ...

- **What is *MY SPIRITUAL CONDITION*?**
- **What are *MY REAL PRIORITIES*?**
- **Do I *WORSHIP* God each day? And if not, why not?**
- **Do I open the *WORD OF GOD* daily, inviting God to use it to *teach, instruct, prune, correct, and train* me? And if not, why not?**
- **Do I *SERVE* God and others with a sense of joy and purpose? And if not, why not?**

Answering these questions will tell us a lot about who we really are, and where we're heading. Because these questions and their answers will be like a compass. And a compass doesn't lie. I believe Jesus asked the people in Sardis, and you and me today, to remember back to how we used to ***WORSHIP HIM***, and back to how we used to hunger and thirst after the ***WORD OF GOD***, and back to how we used to ***SERVE*** God. Because, listen to me, the motivation and the condition of our ***WORSHIP*** of God, our engagement of His ***WORD***, and our willingness to ***SERVE*** Him and others, are three of the best compass-indicators into revealing ***WHERE WE'RE AT SPIRITUALLY*** and ***WHERE WHETHER WE'RE HEADING DOWN THE ROAD WITH OR WITHOUT GOD***.

And all around the world there are little groups of people huddled around creeds and doctrines, but they're not changing the world for Jesus Christ because they haven't surrender to the humility that happens when we truly ***WORSHIP*** God. They haven't submitted to the teaching, the correction, the pruning, the holiness, and the training of the ***WORD OF GOD***. And they haven't discovered the joy of ***SERVING*** God and others in the name, the strength, and the leading of God.

I remember when I personally encountered this Truth, specifically about the centrality of ***GOD'S WORD*** and my need to get into it, and invite it to get into me. It was the Fall of 1978, just months years after I'd come into a relationship with Jesus. I was in my Junior year of college, and was under the teaching ministries of ***RICHARD FOSTER***. And I can clearly see how I've been influenced toward making ***GOD'S WORD*** central, not peripheral to my life and in my life with God ever since that Fall.

Three years later, I remember hearing a message about ***JONAH*** that really brought this home to me. ***DON GREEN***, my pastor and mentor while I was in seminary just opened up this *Old Testament* story and told it. And his confidence was in the ***WORD*** and in the Holy Spirit's ability to apply it's Truth to the lives of the people listening. I'd heard the story of Jonah before, but not like the way I heard it that day.

There wasn't any showmanship ... just Jonah's story and Don saying, "**Let's drink in these verses and listen to what God says to us.**" And on one of the Sundays while

Don was teaching through this short little book, I heard him talk about Jonah being in the belly of the whale for three days and finally crying out to God in prayer. And I remember thinking to myself, “**What an idiot. Why did Jonah wait three days before he finally prayed? What an idiot!**” And then God’s WORD did what it does best when taught verse-by-verse with simplicity and clarity ... it hit me ... and God’s Holy Spirit said to me ...

[God said] “**Gregg, sometimes it takes you a lot longer than three days to realize that I should be your first resort, not your last.**”

[And I said] “**God, help me wake up, and make lasting changes in my life. I’m so much like Jonah, but I want to become more like Jesus.**”

**REVELATION 3:4-5 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)**

<sup>4</sup> **‘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.**  
<sup>5</sup> **‘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.**

So not everybody was **asleep** or **nearly dead**. But most of the people in the Church needed to hear this message. Jesus looks at us and sees us as we really are. He sees who’s **AWAKE AND FAITHFUL**, and who’s **ASLEEP AND UNFAITHFUL**. And He’s saying that if we’ll worship Him, and if we we’ll listen to Him, and if we’ll let Him apply the Truth of His WORD into our lives, that He will clothe us in His goals, in His plans, and in His dreams for us. How often we’re clothed in so many things other than Jesus.

**REVELATION 3:6 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)**

<sup>6</sup> **‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’**

God, help us remember how far Jesus has brought us. And may we long to become true, **WHOLE-HEARTED WORSHIPPERS** of God ... people who are more willing than we’ve ever been before, to become people of **SACRIFICE** and **REPENTANCE**. And may each of us love the **WORD OF GOD**, and how God wants to use it in our lives. And may we find great joy in **SERVING** others inside and outside the church with obedience, discernment, courage, obedience, and passion.

And as we open up our ears to the voice of God’s Spirit, may we hear what He’s saying, not only to the *First Zombie Church of Sardis* –and may we “**wake up**” from our 21<sup>st</sup>-Century spiritual slumber, and be excited about God sending us out into the world as the hands, feet, heart, mind, presence, and voice of His son, and our precious Savior, Jesus Christ –the One and Only Son of God, who stepped out of heaven so that He could step into our lives, and then use us to turn the world upside down.

**NEXT SUNDAY ... THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA: THE FAITHFUL CHURCH | REVELATION 3:7-13. COME PRAYING AND EXPECTING!**

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.