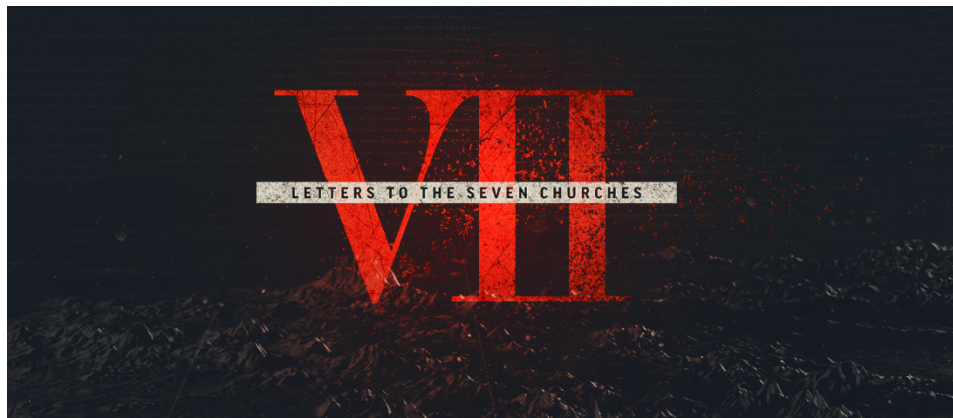




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September 27, 2026

Sardis - Revelation 3:1-6

Jesus is present with His church.

¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star." **Revelation 22:16 NLT**

Revelation is a book about the church.

² "Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God." **Revelation 3:2 NLT**

Sardis had the appearance of life without the reality of life.

1. Jesus Sees Beyond Our Reputation

¹ "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: 'I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.'" **Revelation 3:1 NLT**

¹⁴ "What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions?"... **James 2:14a NLT**

¹⁷ "So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless." **James 2:17 NLT**

Our works don't create our faith, but they reveal whether our faith is actually alive.

"What does Jesus see when He looks at my heart right now?"

2. Jesus Calls Sleeping Christians to Wake Up

² "Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God. ³ Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don't wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief." **Revelation 3:2-3 NLT**

1-in-60 rule

¹ "Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. ² It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you..." **1 Corinthians 15:1-2a NLT**

² But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. ³ They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. **Psalms 1:2-3 NLT**

3. Jesus Honors Those Who Remain Faithful

⁴ "Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy." **Revelation 3:4 NIV**

²⁰ "But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God's love..." **Jude 1:20-21a NIV**

Your spiritual condition is not determined by the deadness around you, but by the living Savior within you!

⁵ "All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine." **Revelation 3:5 NLT**

⁹ "After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands." **Revelation 7:9 NLT**

¹⁴ "...They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white." **Revelation 7:14b NLT**

Next Steps

- Have you been washed in the blood of the Lamb?
- In what specific areas of our lives are we tempted to rely on a past spiritual reputation rather than a present, active relationship with Jesus?
- What is one practical step we can take this week to "strengthen what little remains" in our personal habits of prayer and scripture reading?

- How can we as a church community encourage one another to maintain our faithfulness without falling into the competing traps of compromise or isolation from the world?