

life group study guide

August 16, 2015

REVELATION: Sardis – The Walking Dead

“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. 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. Go back to what you heard and believed at first sight; 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.

Yet there are some in the church in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes with evil. They will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 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.

Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”

Revelation 3: 1-6

How did Jesus introduce Himself to Sardis? What is known about the church and the city there?

What problems existed at Sardis?

Explain “dead” and “alive” as used here. Other churches faced persecution. What persecution is mentioned regarding this church? Are there lessons to be learned from that and what are those?

What did Jesus command the church at Sardis to do about its problems? Look at verses two and three.

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What would happen if they did not repent?

What is meant by the phrase “coming as a thief”? How does this compare and/or relate to other Scripture passages that refer to the unexpectedness of a thief’s appearance?

Was everyone at Sardis guilty of the same sin? What promise is given to the faithful at this church?

Must we always leave a congregation where sin exists? Why could some at Sardis be accepted, yet other WHOLE congregations are rebuked?

What is promised to overcomers? Explain the significance of white garments.

What is the Book of Life? And what is the meaning of being blotted out of the book?

If you can, site other passages in Scripture that refer to Jesus confessing us before God.

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