

## **Letters Week 5 Study Guide**

### **Letter to Sardis**

1- During Sunday's message, Seth shared a funny story of how he pranked a friend who was sleeping in church. Do you have a funny experience involving a time that you or someone you know fell asleep?

2- Revelation 3:1a says "Write to the angel of the church in Sardis: Thus says the One who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars." Who was represented by the 'seven spirits' and the 'seven stars'? What was Jesus emphasizing by identifying Himself in this way?

3- In Revelation 3:1b, Jesus says "I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive but you are dead." What is Jesus saying here?

4- Read Revelation 3:2. What can this verse teach us about Jesus? What can this verse teach us about our relationship with Christ?

5- In 547BC, Cyrus (Persian king) attempted to conquer the city of Sardis. After the initial battle, the citizens of Sardis retreated into the safety of their city. Since the city of Sardis was surrounded by a mountain & steep cliffs, most armies gave up attempts to enter the city gates. Cyrus laid a 2 week siege on the city of Sardis because he was unable to scale the steep cliffs.

Cyrus promised a reward to any soldier who could figure out a way to successfully reach the gates of Sardis. One day a Persian soldier was watching an enemy soldier walking on top of one of the cliffs, just outside the city gates. The enemy soldier dropped his helmet down several feet below. This soldier used a particular path to easily make his way down to his helmet and then returned to his assigned post. The Persian soldier took mental note of the path and led a group of Persian soldiers up the path that night. The Persian soldiers successfully made it to the city gates and were surprised to find the gates unlocked and unguarded. The entire city was sleeping! So the city of Sardis fell to the Persians because of their pride and slumber. Why is this history so significant to the church in Sardis? How can we relate with this story?

6- Read Revelation 3:3. What thought or feeling do you experience after reading this verse?

7- Read Revelation 3:4. What did the color white represent? How might this verse provide hope to the Christians in Sardis? How can this verse fill our hearts with hope?

8- Read Revelation 3:5 & Psalm 69:27-28. How do these verses relate to one another?

9- In Revelation 3:5, Jesus has a special promise to those who are faithful to Him. He will acknowledge our names before His Father and before His angels. Think about an area of your life that

is testing your faithfulness to Christ. How can Christ's promise give you strength and encouragement?

10- Read Revelation 3:6. This verse is our invitation to take Christ's words to heart. What truth(s) have you heard the Holy Spirit communicating through this letter?

11- The letter to the church in Sardis provides at least 3 take aways that we can apply to our lives:

- Wake up!
- Acknowledge your insecurities
- Walk with Jesus

Which of these resonate the most with you right now?

12- Spend some time in prayer. Thank Jesus for the letter to Sardis and ask Him to help you live fully awake this week.