

**ALIVE**  
to the World  
**but**  
**DEAD**  
to GOD



### Revelation 3:1-6

Ezekiel 3:16-21

James 2:14-26

### Growing As Real Disciple

- Five **D**'s of Discipleship.
- **D**esire . . . .
- **D**etermination . . .
- Disciples are **DISCIPLINED** (orderly or prescribed conduct or pattern of behavior; training in habits of order and precision).  
→ “endurance”:  
★ μακροθυμία makrothumia {mak-roth-oo-mee'-ah} - “endurance”; “constancy”; “steadfastness”; “longsuffering” (Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 1:11; Colossians 3:12; 1 Timothy 1:16; Hebrews 6:12; James 5:10)  
★ ὑπομένω hypomeno {hoop-om-en'-o} - “steadfastness, constancy, endurance”; “the characteristic of a man/woman who is not swerved from his/her **deliberate purpose** and his **loyalty** to faith **and** piety by even the greatest trials and suffering.” (Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13; Romans 12:12; Colossians 1:11; 2 Timothy 2:12; Hebrews 12:1-2; James 1:12)  
→ **MEDITATE ON MARK 4:17 or MATTHEW 13:20-22.**
- ★ **BIGGEST ENEMY: TIME** – a disciple always disciplines his/her time to fulfill his/her goals/purpose/priorities.
- ★ **DISCIPLINE** is controlling my body, desires, and time and many times when I do not want to. **DISCIPLINE** is controlling my life and not letting my fleshy and worldly desires and the world control it.

*To the Church at Sardis:*

### Sardis: The City

- An important city which lied at the intersection of five major crossroads and two major rivers.

- The most fertile, secular, and pagan sector in the Grecian empire.
- Croesus, king of Lydia (ancient Sardis) was the richest man in the empire. According to legend, everything he touched turned to gold.
- A great trade and military center (a natural fortress on a 300 meters plateau.
- The city was known for the manufacture and dying of woolen garments.
- **TWICE** the city was captured because their sentries **failed** to do their jobs faithfully. They were **over confident**.
- The fall of Sardis **surprised** the Greek world. They equated the saying, “to capture the acropolis of Sardis” with “to do the impossible.”

### The Master’s Title (Revelation 3:1)

- He that has the **SEVEN SPIRITS** of God, and the seven stars.
- **SEVEN** means **complete** and **fulness**.
- The seven stars are the seven messengers. (1:20)
- The title shows Christ as the **SOVEREIGN** Lord, full of the Spirit of God working through **GODLY** leaders of the church.
- This title reminded the church at Sardis what they were **LACKING**.
- **LESSON:** We are **commanded** to be **continually filled** with and **walk** in the Holy Spirit. (Eph 5:18; 4:30; Gal 5:16, 25; 1 Thess 5:19)

*“I Know Your Works . . .”*

### The Master’s Commendation: Christ has **NONE!**

- A **DEAD** church **cannot** do **ANY** good . . . **in the sight of God**.
- **NO** acknowledgment of **OPPOSITION** or **PERSECUTION**.
- (v. 4) Christ recognized a **FEW**.  
★ Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23; 20:16; Luke 12:32; 13:23-30; 1 Peter 3:20.  
★ **MEDITATE ON THIS!**
- The **FEW** have **NOT** stained their garments.

### The Master’s Criticism (Revelation 3:1-2)

- “You have a **NAME** but are **DEAD!**”
  - The church at Sardis **LOOKED** successful to the world and **men**.
  - **BUT** in the sight of God they were **DEAD** and **USELESS**.
  - Spiritual death is always connected to **SIN**.
- Sardis looked great to **MAN**. See Luke 16:15.
- Paul spoke of this kind of Church at the endtimes – 2 Timothy 3:1-5.  
→ Isaiah 29:13; 48:1-2; 58:1-3; Ezekiel 33:30-32; Matt 15:1-9; 23:27-28
- “Your works are **NOT** complete in the sight of God.”
  - Therefore they were **unacceptable** to God. – See Zechariah 4:6.
  - They were **weighed** by God and found lacking. (See Daniel 5:27)

- God's not interested in **HALF-HEARTED** work, faith, love, or loyalty. (REMEMBER the first and greatest commandment – Matthew 22:36-38)
- Christ demands that He be the **PRIORITY** in the whole lives of His disciples. (Luke 9:13; 14:26-27; Matthew 10:36-38; Philippians 3:8; Psalm 73:25-26)
- A superficial relationship with Christ is no relationship with Christ.
- Faith without works is **DEAD**. (James 2:14, 17, 20, 24, 26)

### The Master's Instruction (Revelation 3:2-3)

- ★ (v. 6) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."
- ★ **THE SPIRIT IS SAYING TODAY TO US . . .**
- ① **BE WATCHFUL.**
  - Definition: to watch, give **STRICT** attention to; be cautious; to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one; be alert; be vigilant.
  - See Matthew 24:42-43; 25:13; **26:41**; Mark 13:34-37; **Acts 20:29-32**; 1 Cor 16:13; Col 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; **1 Peter 5:8**; **Rev 16:15**.
  - WE are ALL to be **watchmen**. (Ezekiel 33 with Acts 20:20-32)
- ② **STRENGTHEN WHAT REMAINS THAT IS READY TO DIE.**
  - This is instruction and a warning.
  - If **CORRECTIONS** are not made what remains WILL DIE.
  - "strengthen" speaks that there is real **WORK** that MUST be done.
  - It is time to STOP "**PLAYING**" church and/or Christians and start living the life (walking) of what Christ says a Christian/disciple is.
- ③ **REMEMBER** what you have **HEARD** and **RECEIVED**. (Hebrews 2:1)
  - Get back into the **written** Word of God.
  - Jeremiah 6:16 - "ask for the **old** paths, where the good way is, and walk in it. Then you will find rest for your souls . . ."
- ④ **HOLD FAST** the truths you have heard and received.
  - Remember the teaching that they had received and **DO** them.
    - ★ Jude 3; 2 Timothy 1:13.
- ⑤ **REPENT!**
  - It was NOW TIME to **REVERSE** what was happening and get back to the **NARROW** path. (Matthew 7:13-14)
  - ★ Definition: Stop doing things the way you want or think are right and start doing things in accordance with God's **written** Word. Anything less is not repentance.

### The Master's Warning (Revelation 3:3)

- "IF YOU WILL NOT **REPENT** THEN I WILL COME UPON YOU AS A THIEF SUDDENLY COMES."
- When everyone is saying **PEACE** and **SAFETY** then **DESTRUCTION** suddenly comes. (1 Thessalonians 5:3)
- Christ will come to **PLUNDER** and **DESTROY** His church at Sardis.
  - Christ is very **SERIOUS** about His church.

### The Master's Promise (Revelation 3:4-5)

- Christ promised to these FEW was that they **WILL** walk with Christ in **WHITE**, for they are **worthy**. (Isaiah 61:10; Revelation 6:11; 7:9, 13, 14; 19:14)
- Overcomers will be **CLOTHED** with white garments. Their **GODLY** (holy) CHARACTER is visible to all. (Isaiah 61:10)
  - ★ The children of God **practice** righteousness. (1 John 3:6-10)
  - ★ The children of God **purify** themselves as He is pure. (1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1)
  - ★ The children of God are **zealous** for good works. (Titus 2:14)
- The **UNFILED** will **WALK** with God. (v. 4; Genesis 5:22, 24)
  - Their **walk** (life - NOT what they say) is evidence of their calling. (Ephesians 4:1; 5:1; Col 1:10; **2:6**; 5:15-18; 1 Thess 2:12; **4:1-2**; 1 John 1:6-7; 2:6; 1 Peter 1:21; Matthew 7:13-14; Micah 6:8; Deuteronomy 10:12-13; 1 John 2:3-6)
- Overcomers will **NOT** be blotted out the Book of Life.
  - Names are written in this book **BEFORE** the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8; 17:8)
  - See Isaiah 49:16 - Graven on God's hand.
- Believers need to **REJOICE** because their names are written in this book. (See Luke 10:20)
- The Book of Life is the **LAMB's** book of life. (Revelation 21:27)
- This is the Book of Life and sinners are **DEAD**. (Ephesians 2:1)
- Christ, Himself, WILL confess overcomers names before God, the (our) Father. (See Matthew 10:32)

### The Spirit Has Spoken (Revelation 3:6)

- **WHAT DID THE SPIRIT SAY TO YOU?**
- **WHAT WILL DO WITH WHAT THE SPIRIT SAID TODAY?**
- Do no deceive yourself! (James 1:22; Hebrews 2:1)