

# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

## *chapter 3:1-6*

### Lesson 6

The church in Sardis received no real words of commendation from Jesus. Rather, what appeared to be good was not. Although Jesus pronounced them dead, in His mercy, He gave them the means by which to be revived.

#### **OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 3:1-6**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father*, *Jesus*, and the *Holy Spirit*. You may find it difficult to identify whether a word is speaking of the *Father* or *Jesus*. For the purposes of this study, mark the words both ways.  
*Key Words: God/Father, Jesus, (Holy) Spirit, repent, and overcomes*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verses 1 and 5. Mark the words and record what is being contrasted.
4. Make a list of what these verses clearly reveal about Jesus.

5. On your Observation Worksheet, underline (in different ways or colors) and list below the phrases which reveal:
  - a. the actions Jesus praised
  - b. the actions Jesus was displeased with
  - c. the correction Jesus called for
  - d. the consequences of not changing
  - e. the promises to him who *overcomes*

**DESCRIPTION OF JESUS: Read Revelation 3:1a**

1. What church was to receive the message of Revelation 3:1-6?
2. Find Sardis on the map below and circle it.



3. Record the two attributes of Jesus described in verse 1.
  - a. Record Jesus' earlier description of Himself from Revelation 1:4,16.
4. According to Revelation 1:20, what do the *seven stars* represent?

5. It is believed that *the seven Spirits of God* speaks of the Holy Spirit. Read Isaiah 11:2. We are told that the *Spirit of the LORD rests upon* the Messiah. What other six attributes of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in this verse?
  - a. Given that Jesus has these attributes, what might this say to the church of Sardis?

**THE GOOD: Read Revelation 3:1b,4**

1. Each of us is known for some act or characteristic. What did the church of Sardis have a *name* for?
  - a. Using Matthew 23:27-28, describe the seriousness of the condition of a church or a person who simply “looks good” or *alive*.

Personal: Consider your own reputation. Is there anything in your life that the Lord views as *hypocritical*? Do you share His concern?

2. Jesus does not fail to notice those who are not behaving as others who have chosen ungodliness. What did He say about the *few names in Sardis*? Revelation 3:4
  - a. Consider the heart of the Shulamite in the Song of Solomon 5:3. Write the question she asked at the end of the verse.
    - 1.) Using 1 Corinthians 6:11, describe the state of the believer.
      - a.) Reflect upon the *washing* Jesus has done for you. In what ways does an appreciation of that *washing* cause you to want to keep from getting dirty again through sin?

- b. What are your thoughts when you think about Jesus taking notice of the times you choose to do the right thing?

## THE BAD: Read Revelation 3:1c,2b

1. Although the church in Sardis had *a name that they were alive*, what did Jesus know about them?
  - a. What do you look for as evidence that a church is *alive*?
    - 1.) According to Micah 6:8, what are some things the LORD looks for?
2. List some synonyms for the word *dead*.
3. Describe a church that looks successful, yet God is not pleased with.
4. *I have not found your works perfect before God* (Revelation 3:2b). The word *perfect* can be better understood as complete. The sense is that of being weighed in the balance of Him who requires living faith as the motive of works, and found wanting. Of course, we all fall short of *perfect works*. It was not the quantity of *works* that prompted Jesus' concern. What do you think Jesus saw in this church that provoked these words of admonition?
5. How can you know your *works* are right before God? Colossians 3:17

## THE REMEDY: Read Revelation 3:2a,3a

1. The sins of Sardis were not without remedy. List the actions Jesus desired of them.
2. How did the church of Sardis *receive*?
3. Reflect upon the remedy prescribed by Jesus and record it in your own words.
4. In what ways is this remedy applicable to many of our failures to walk with the Lord the way we should?

## **THE WARNING: Read Revelation 3:3b**

1. What are the promised consequences for not heeding Jesus' remedy?
  - a. What additional insight is provided in Matthew 24:43-44?
    - 1.) What does this kind of readiness look like?
2. Jesus' warning to the churches in Asia was severe. We can assume this consequence of Jesus coming when they were not *ready* for Him to be equally worthy of concern. Why do you think believers take this warning lightly?
  - a. What would be your fears of Jesus coming at a time when you are not *ready*?

## **THE PROMISE TO OVERCOMERS: Read Revelation 3:4,5**

1. Make a list of the promises recorded in Revelation 3:4,5.
2. What do the following Scriptures reveal about God making things *white*?

Isaiah 1:18

Daniel 12:10

  - a. Why is it important to remember and believe that it is God who makes things *white*, not us?
3. What is taught about the Book of Life in:

Exodus 32:33

Psalm 69:28

Revelation 20:15

4. Philippians 2:10,11 reminds us that one day *at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...* Revelation 3:5 promises *overcomers* (all believers) that one day Jesus will *confess our name before His Father and before His angels*. What is your response to this glorious truth?

a. Add to your adoration by writing the words of Luke 12:8.

1.) What is your response as you consider that time when Jesus will personally *confess* you to be His?

### **REVIEW: Read Revelation 3:1-6**

1. In what ways did this lesson speak to you about:

your outward appearance

the remedy for *dead* Christianity

the promises to overcomers

2. Reflect upon the remedy expressed in verse 2. If you were one of the members of the church in Sardis that was contributing to its deadness, what changes do you think the Lord would be calling you to make?

3. Consider the words of Revelation 3:6. Share one thing you *heard*.

*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God;  
For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments,  
And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

*- Isaiah 61:10*

## Observation Worksheet

### Revelation 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. <sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. <sup>4</sup> You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup> He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. <sup>6</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."