



Lent 2020: Coming back to Jesus

Week 3: To the church in Sardis

Welcome and worship

Have you got a funny story about oversleeping? Did you wake up and have no idea where you were...?

¹To the angel^[a] of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits^[b] of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

⁴Yet 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. ⁵The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

This passage starts with a challenge, and then moves to reassurance at the end. In that way it is a little different from what we looked at last week.

The story of the Church in Sardis

- One of the Big 3 with Ephesus and Pergamum, but the church is poor

Do you think there might be places that God might call on us to wake up? Is the current coronavirus crisis a call to wake up of some kind?

What deeds of ours might be as yet 'unfinished'?

What things about God that we have seen and heard might we want to

- *hold on tightly to?*
- *turn back to?*

Look at the promise that those who overcome will be like those dressed in white., and that Jesus will acknowledge them before his Father and the angels. How does that make you feel?

What one thing have you heard the Spirit say today that you are taking away with you?

Let's pray to be filled with the Spirit, and for a vision of the life that is to come.

Some space for notes here as you reflect on what God is saying to you: