



Dear Church

Dear Church: Letter to Sardis October 13th / 14th

Speaker: Dick Foth

Scripture: [Revelation 3:1-6](#)

Sermon Summary:

Jesus didn't come to make bad people good. He came to make dead people live.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What did you think the letter meant to the original audience?
2. What do you think the letter means to the Church today?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. What mementos do you keep that serve as reminders of your ancestry or legacy?
2. How do you handle conflict? How can you affirm a person while confronting the issue?
3. Culture reflects how we are in the world – what we value, how we think, and how we act. What is the culture that surrounds you? How does it compare & contrast your personal values, thoughts, and actions?
4. What part of you is not fully alive in Christ?
5. Where do you need to wake up? What do you need to remember, hold fast, and repent for?

Digging Deeper

Letters to the Seven Churches

As we study the *Letters to the Seven Churches* found within Revelations, we need to try to understand what **DID** it mean to the original audience **BEFORE** we try to understand what **DOES** it mean for us today. You do not have to be a Biblical scholar to study scriptures! Yet, below you will find information, resources, and questions to guide you and your group in studying these letters together.

Geography of the City of Sardis

Sardis is situated on the south side of the fertile Hermus River valley approximately 35 miles southeast of Thyatira and 60 miles east of Sardis.

Legend of the City of Sardis

In 546 BC, Sardis seemingly impregnable acropolis was taken due to a security lapse. A soldier, who was meant to be on watch, dropped his helmet off the wall. When he went to retrieve his helmet, he revealed a secret entrance to their Persian enemies who kept watch of the wall. Soon after, King Cyrus of Persia, used secret entrance to send an army and capture the city of Sardis like a “thief in the night.”

The Angel to the Church in Sardis

"We have met the enemy," Walt Kelly announced a generation ago in his comic strip Pogo, "and he is us!" The message to Sardis lists no specific enemies, internal or external. There is no name calling--no liars, no Balaam or Jezebel, no deep secrets of Satan, no synagogue of Satan, no throne of Satan. Consequently, of all the congregations in Asia, we know least about Sardis and its problems. Yet no other message is more damaging or more urgent than this one. Walt Kelly was right. Too often, when we encounter no spiritual adversaries, it is because **WE** are the enemy. The only enemy named at Sardis is the angel to whom the message is addressed who is tasked to remember, hold fast to truth, and repent.

RE-READ REVELATION 3:1-6

Questions for the Church Today

1. How does the Church today relate to the Church in Sardis?
2. Where are the discrepancies between the Church's reputation and reality?
3. What areas of the Church need to wake up?