

Revelation 3:1-6

SARDIS

RULER – the One who is Sovereign (Colossians 1:18) – ***He holds us in His hands (John 10:27-28)***

Holding the sevenfold Spirit (John 15:26; 16:7)

The Holy Spirit convicts the world and points to Jesus

Holding the seven stars (Revelation 1:20; 2:1)

Leaders of His church, be they men or angels, are responsible to Him (James 3:1)

REPUTATION

Looking on the outside (I Samuel 16:7 / II Corinthians 11:13-15)

God cares about the heart. Both men and angels can hide who they truly are.

Looking on the inside (Matthew 23:27-28 / Jeremiah 17:10 / Hebrews 4:12)

God reveals the heart. He alone knows us and His Word exposes us.

REALITY

The need to wake-up! (Ephesians 5:13-17 / Romans 13:11 / Hebrews 9:14)

We must use our time wisely – the end is close. Only His Spirit can prepare us to serve.

The need to strengthen what is left (Philippians 3:13-16)

We must not look back – but keep our focus on the goal, none of us has arrived.

The need to complete your deeds (meeting physical and spiritual needs) (James 2:14-17)

“Only one life will soon....” True compassion meets physical and spiritual needs.

REMEMBER

What you have heard and received (Philippians 4:9 / I Thessalonians 2:13)

Accepting His Word as truth and seeking, by His Spirit, to live it out.

What to do – walk in obedience: REPENT! (Acts 26:20)

When we truly turn to God in repentance, good fruit will result.

Warning of His coming (James 5:9)

For those who ignore Him, always grumbling about things, He is at the door.

REWARD

Worthy to be dressed in white (Revelation 7:14; 19:8)

New clothes given by Jesus – washed in His blood

Walking with Jesus (John 14:23)

When we walk in obedience, having believed in Him, He takes up residence with us

Written in His book – your name acknowledged before God (Revelation 20:15)

Evidence that we truly belong to Him.

Discussion questions for Revelation 3:1-6 SARDIS

What differences are there between a church's reputation in the eyes of men and the eyes of God? (Romans 12:2 / I Peter 1:13-15)

**Men want the church to align with cultural ideals – they do not want to face their sin
God want the church to align with His heart and with His Word – not to compromise truth**

What would you expect to be the last things to go in a church that is drifting away from God? How can those things be strengthened? (I Timothy 4:12-16 / II Timothy 4:1-5) **Some claim to believe His Word. Truly let His Word be paramount in the decisions, practices, and teaching of the church. Do not compromise His truth whether or not it is accepted by the culture in which you live.**

What would incomplete deeds look like? What would it take to make them complete? (James 4:3-4 / John 15:5) **Deeds done in the flesh. Trying to please or appease God by our own efforts. Addressing only physical needs, without regard for the spiritual. We must examine our motives. Am I seeking selfish gain, looking to please men, or drawn to worldly lusts? Unless I'm abiding in the vine, all my efforts are worthless, for apart from Him I can do nothing.**

What is Jesus referring to when He mentions the things you have heard and received? How does remembering these things help to get us back on track? (Ephesians 4:20-24 / Philippians 4:9) **We have received Jesus in our lives through believing the truth. We have heard the teaching and seen the examples of lives being transformed by His truth. We cannot think we belong to Jesus if we continue to live like we belong to this world. (I John 2:15-17)**

What makes the anticipation of His coming a blessing? A warning? (II Timothy 4:8 / Matthew 25:9-12) **When we are living faithfully for Him and excited about His return. (Titus 2:13-14) When we are pretending to be His and do not have His Spirit within us. When we turn our backs on Him and live for this world.**

How can we be made worthy to:

Have our names written in His book? (Hebrews 12:23 / John 1:12)
If we are truly His child and a part of His church, our name are there.

Be dressed in white? (Isaiah 1:18 / Revelation 7:14)
Only He is able to cleanse us and make us whole – by the blood of Jesus.

Walk with Jesus? (Matthew 28:20 / Hebrews 13:5)
When we belong to Him, He is always with us. We just need to surrender to Him.

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