

## “Jesus’ Letter to the Church at Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)”

### **Biblical Description of the Church at Sardis (Revelation 3:1–6)**

*“I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.”* (v. 1)

### **Key characteristics of the church at Sardis:**

#### 1. **Outward Reputation vs. Inward Reality:**

- They had a **reputation for being alive**—perhaps vibrant in activity or appearance.
- But spiritually, they were **dead**. This suggests a disconnect between public perception and internal spiritual vitality.

#### 2. **Command to Wake Up:**

- Jesus urges them to **“wake up and strengthen what remains”** (v. 2).
- Implies spiritual lethargy or complacency.

#### 3. **Incomplete Works:**

- Jesus says, *“I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.”*
- Suggests that their efforts, though present, lacked sincerity, faithfulness, or full obedience.

#### 4. **Call to Remember and Repent:**

- They are called to **remember** what they had received and heard (likely referring to the gospel), to **hold fast**, and to **repent**.

#### 5. **Warning of Sudden Judgment:**

- If they do not wake up, Jesus will come **like a thief**, indicating unexpected judgment.

#### 6. **A Faithful Remnant:**

- A few in Sardis had not “soiled their garments,” meaning they remained pure.
- They are promised to **walk with Jesus in white**, symbolizing victory and purity.

#### 7. **Promise to the Overcomer:**

- Clothed in white garments
- Name not blotted from the Book of Life
- Jesus will confess their name before the Father and angels

# HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, August 27  
Study and Prayer  
Bible Study @ 7pm  
Prayer @ 7:45

Thursday, August 28  
Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00

Sunday, August 31  
Worship Team Run Through  
@ 8:00 a.m.  
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School @ 11:15

Wednesday, September 3  
Study and Prayer  
Bible Study @ 7pm  
Prayer @ 7:45

Thursday, September 4  
Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00

**Helping Hands for  
August 31, 2025**

**Live Streaming**

**Al Floyd**

**Soundboard**

**Rich Williams**

**ProPresenter**

**Elizabeth Floyd**

**Communion**

**Elizabeth Floyd**

## Sunday's Sermon Title

**"The Quest to Know...  
Faithfulness."**

**Prophecies O.T.**

**Revealed....**

**N.T.**

Aug 24 Eph 4:7-16

Aug 25 Ps 68:18

Aug 26 Luke 24:51

Aug 27 Ps 69:4

Aug 28 John 15:25

Aug 29 Ps 69:8

## GROW

### Women of HOPE

**Meetings generally at HOPE**

**on the second and fourth**

**Saturdays**

**every month**

### **"Food of the Month"**

for the Raleigh Dream Center  
Food Pantry

**KID'S TREATS - Salty, Sweet, or  
Fruity**

**Individually Wrapped**

**OR**

**A cash donation to HOPE for the  
church to obtain these items.**

We have a collection bin in the  
foyer

## **SERVE**

**TLC Devotion**

**September 24, 2025**

**@ 11:00 a.m.**

5124 Departure Dr # 101,  
Raleigh

### **HOPE Meal Ministry**

Take a meal from the freezer if  
needed for you or someone  
else.

## UPCOMING

### WOMEN OF HOPE

**Saturdays at 10 a.m. at**

**HOPE**

**9/13**

**Spiritual Disciplines**

### Prayer Requests:

Kathy Herriman, Gene & Becky Hale, Erin's parents and brother, Dr. Chris and Lori King, Kathy's Friend, Sandy, Joan's friend, Donna, Patty Moyer and her son Brandon, Jerry's scheduling and Alice's transplant possibilities, Tom and Donna Williams, Ryan's Mom and Dad, Ron Clifton, Josh McDonald, Janice Worthington, Donna Williams, Burton(Erin), Phil Parton, Krishana, Sam and Rachael, Joan Rollinson, Dianne Reinoso, Cindy (Elizabeth), Barbara(81) Stroke, Joey(18) Crohn's, Youth Ministry, Kathy Jo and her family, Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho (Kathy H), Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome, The Mallory family, Carol & Colin (Kathy H), Loretta (Sandi U), Joan Summers, Jordan Stevens (Lynn J.), Our Military, Police, Fire, and EMS, Missionaries, the Nation.

## **SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Please sign-up for **Nursery Helpers.**
2. Help with pick-up for **Pauline Suh.** Sign-up sheet available.
3. **Covered Dish Fellowship** on September 14. Please see sign-up sheet.

### UPCOMING

#### WOMEN OF HOPE

**Saturdays at 10 a.m. at HOPE**

**9/13**

**Spiritual Disciplines - What's Yours**

**9/27**

**NO MEETING - Attending  
Presbytery in Cary**

**HOPE Church Raleigh  
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

**4911 Green Rd**

**Raleigh, NC 27616**

**919-508-6827**

**Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

**www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org**

**www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh**

**Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh**

**YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"  
in the search box)**

## Application to the Modern Church

The message to Sardis is a serious warning that can be directly applied to many churches—and individual believers—today.

### 1. Beware of Relying on Reputation

- Many modern churches may **look alive**—busy programs, large attendance, charismatic leaders—but are **spiritually dead**.
- True vitality is measured by **faithfulness to Christ, holiness, and dependence on the Spirit**, not just external activity.

### 2. Spiritual Apathy Is Dangerous

- Like Sardis, churches can become **complacent**, resting on past success or spiritual heritage.
- Jesus’s command to “wake up” is relevant: revival begins with **awareness of our true spiritual state**.

### 3. Partial Obedience Is Not Enough

- The church’s “incomplete works” show that going through the motions or offering partial commitment doesn’t please God.
- God desires **wholehearted devotion**, not superficial religious activity.

### 4. Call to Remember and Repent

- Modern churches must return to the **foundation of the gospel**, hold to **sound doctrine**, and cultivate **repentant hearts**.
- Renewal begins with remembering what we received—God’s Word and the gospel of Christ.

### 5. The Danger of Unexpected Judgment

- The warning that Jesus will come “like a thief” highlights the need for **constant vigilance**.
- Churches must **stay awake** spiritually, ready for Christ’s return, not asleep in worldliness or compromise.

### 6. Hope for the Faithful Remnant

- Even in dead or dying churches, God preserves a **faithful remnant**.
- These individuals are promised **intimacy with Christ, eternal life, and honor before the Father**.

## Conclusion

The message to the church at Sardis is a sobering reminder that **reputation does not equal reality**. Christ sees the true condition of His church. The call to **wake up, strengthen what remains, remember, and repent** is as urgent today as it was then. For the modern church to be faithful, it must pursue **authentic spiritual life**, rooted in **repentance, faith, and obedience to Christ**, not just external appearances.

**SO...**

Based on **Revelation 3:1–6** (Christ's message to the church in Sardis), here's a **thoughtful and introspective church survey** designed to help a modern church evaluate its spiritual health, authenticity, and readiness before God. The goal is to prompt reflection in both leadership and congregation about whether the church has "a reputation of being alive, but is dead" (Revelation 3:1).

### **Spiritual Vitality Survey – Reflecting on Revelation 3:1–6**

*"I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die..."*

— Revelation 3:1–2

This survey is meant to be anonymous and honest. It is designed for individual and corporate reflection and growth.

#### **SECTION 1: PERSONAL SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**1. How regularly do you engage with Scripture and prayer outside of church gatherings?**

- Daily
- A few times a week
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never

**2. Do you sense that your faith is alive, growing, and connected to God?**

- Yes, consistently
- Yes, but inconsistently
- I'm unsure
- Not really
- No, I feel spiritually dead

**3. Do your daily actions reflect your identity as a follower of Christ?**

- Always
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

#### **SECTION 2: CHURCH LIFE & CULTURE**

**4. How would you describe the spiritual vitality of our church?**

- Vibrant and Christ-centered
- Active but lacking spiritual depth
- Outwardly busy but inwardly stagnant
- Declining or spiritually asleep
- I don't know

**5. Do you believe our church has a reputation of being alive, but is spiritually asleep or disconnected?**

- No, we are spiritually healthy
- Maybe—we need to examine ourselves
- Yes—we focus more on appearance than reality
- I'm not sure

**6. What part of our ministry do you feel is truly Spirit-led and life-giving?**

*(Open-ended)*

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7. What part of our ministry feels performative, routine, or lacking spiritual power?

*(Open-ended)*

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**SECTION 3: REPENTANCE & READINESS**

8. Is there an emphasis on repentance, holiness, and accountability in our church community?

- Yes, very much so
- Somewhat
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Not at all

9. Do you feel our church is truly ready to meet Christ if He were to return today?

- Yes
- Maybe, but we need to wake up
- No, we are not prepared
- I don't know

10. What steps do you personally feel called to take in light of Revelation 3:1–6?

*(Open-ended)*

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11. What steps should HOPE Church leadership consider in response to this passage?

*(Open-ended)*

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**Final Reflection**

*"He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life..." (Revelation 3:5)*

**Do you want to be part of the faithful few who walk with Christ in white? What might that look like for you today?**

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