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Valley Church

November 16 & 19, 2023  
Week 7 – The Church at Sardis

**Introduction:**

**Revelation 3:1-6 Notes and Application:**

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**The Big Idea:**

The letter to Sardis was written to address the issue of surface-level religion that was empowered by the flesh rather than the Holy Spirit alive in the true believers. Many churches in history – and today – have traded the proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel of Jesus for humanistic efforts and activities. Jesus would say to any church or believer moving in that direction: “Wake up!”

## QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

### Personal Life:

1. In the weekend message, we saw how Jesus once again was addressing a mixed group of people who were identifying as part of the Sardian Church. Looking back, have you ever known of, or been a part of a "church" that was filled with "good people" doing "good things" but in hindsight you realized the agenda was worldly and the power was from the flesh rather than the Spirit? Discuss...

### Ponderings:

2. Jesus says to the false believers in Sardis that their deeds were "unfinished" or "incomplete" in the sight of God. Why are many of the things that pass for "good works" in the Body of Christ in reality generated by the flesh rather than the Spirit? How can we know the difference?
3. How can a local church like Valley be protected from putting people in places of influence who are driven by the flesh rather than the Spirit? Discuss...
4. Jesus calls out the Church in Sardis for appearing to be alive, but in reality, being dead. How is it possible to discern whether a church is dead or alive spiritually, especially when/if they seem to have many cool things going on at the surface level? Discuss...
5. What roles do the following elements play in determining whether a church is dead or alive in Christ?
  - Evident love
  - Healthy accountability
  - Commitment to the Bible and the Gospel
  - Generosity

What else would you add to that list?

### Promptings:

6. What role(s) is God calling you to play personally in contributing to the spiritual life and vitality of our church? Have you answered that call? Discuss...