

ARE WE READY TO WAKE UP?

TODAY'S QUESTION: Are we ready to wake up?

SERIES QUESTION: Why the revelation?

- ▶ The Revelation of Jesus is a _____ call to Christians.

SERIES THEME: We are the people of the apocalypse living everyday in the revelation of Jesus Christ

TODAY'S TEXT: Revelation 3:1-6

- ▶ Numbers in Revelation are often symbolic and not literal.
- ▶ The Church in Canada is a lot like Church in Sardis.

TODAY'S THEME: To be "The Church": Alive and awake - seeing, remembering, repenting, and always ready for Christ's return

I. WE'RE AWAKE AND READY TO _____ WHAT JESUS _____ □

Question: Do we want to see what Jesus sees?

A. A SLEEPY CHURCH WANTS TO BE _____

Question: What do we want?

- ▶ The Church in Sardis was too comfortable!
 - > Their city was rich.
 - > The Church was enjoying the lifestyle of their culture.

Question: What does Jesus have to say to a sleepy Church?

- vv.1b, 2a, 3b

B. A LIVING CHURCH IS READY TO BE _____

- ▶ Review: Churches need and _____ Jesus' wake-up call.
 - > The Churches of Revelation all needed a daily encounter with the living Jesus.

Question: Do we want to be a comfortable, dying Church? – or –
A Church living with our eyes wide open and our ears alert, awake to the words of the Spirit?

What reputation do we want? _____ Church? – or – Jesus' Church?

II. WE'RE AWAKE AND READY TO _____ JESUS □

A. THE LIVING CHURCH IS READY TO WORSHIP

- ▶ A sign of a dying Church is _____ worship.
 - > A form of worship but without power.
 - II Timothy 3:5

Question: Why does worship die?

Answer: Our worship dies when we forget Jesus!

Question: What can we do to revive our worship?

- ▶ Listen to what Jesus' says:
 - #1 "Wake up! "Strengthen what remains..." v. 2a

▶ It's our _____ responsibility to keep worship alive in our lives and _____ our Church.

#2 "Remember ... what you have received ..." v. 3a

- ▶ When we worship, we are remembering and _____ from Jesus.

Question: Were you ready to worship today?

B. THE LIVING CHURCH IS READY FOR THE _____

- ▶ A sign of a dying Church is dead preaching.
 - > The Church starts to die when we stop _____ and _____ firmly onto the Word of God.

▶ Listen to what Jesus says:

"Remember what you have received and heard; hold it fast ..." v.3a

Question: Were we ready to hear the Word today? – or – Would we rather sleep?

- ▶ Hearing and holding on to the Word of God is a _____ that we all share!

• II Timothy 3:15b – 17; 4:2a

• Romans 1:16

III. WE'RE AWAKE AND READY TO _____ □

A. THE LIVING CHURCH IS READY TO CHANGE

Question: Change is hard, so why change?

- ▶ Jesus says: "Repent or perish."
 - 2:5, 16, 21, 22; 3:3, 19; Luke 13:3, 5; Matthew 3:2; 4:17; Acts 2:37b, 38
- > The Church in Sardis had "unfinished" business.
 - v. 2b
- > When we get lazy, dirt accumulates!
- > We live in a contaminating environment.

• v. 4 - "ruined by wallowing in the muck of the world's ways" (MSG)

Question: Are we ready to turn back to Jesus? Again?

B. THE LIVING CHURCH _____ WITH JESUS

- ▶ Jesus says: "Walk with me" and be clean.
 - v. 4, 5
- ▶ Cleansing is a daily process of _____ and walking in a close relationship with Jesus.
 - I John 1:7, 9

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS: Are we ready for the thief in the night?

Who is the "Thief in the night"?

Jesus is coming ... Are you ready? Are you awake?

~ LIFEGROUP STUDY GUIDE ~

Open by discussing times you or someone you know missed a wake-up call. Talk about times when you got a "spiritual" wake-up call.

Pastor Barry said "*The Revelation of Jesus is a wake-up call to Christians.*"

> What do you think this means?

Read and discuss Revelation 3:1-6.

> What was their reputation? v.1

> Why did Jesus say they needed to wake up? What did He tell them to do? vv. 2, 3

> What would be the result if they did not wake up and repent?

> There was another smaller group of victorious Christians in Sardis. What were they like? vv. 4, 5

Pastor Barry also said that he thought "*The Church in Canada is a lot like the Church in Sardis.*"

> Do you see two different groups of Christians in the Canadian Church?

> Are we sleepy Christians or awake Christians?

Read I Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11. Jesus' return is described as coming like a "*thief in the night*".

> What does this mean?

> How should that affect us?

> How does that encourage us?

Close by "*encouraging one another*" (I Thessalonians 4:18 & 5:11). Pray for the Canadian Church to be awake and ready for the return of Christ.