

SLEEPING SARDIS

Rev. 3:1-6
David Rountree

OUR REPUTATION IN CHRIST (v. 1)

1. The seven spirits (3:1) are the same as in 1:4 and 4:5 and in 5:6. The seven stars were mentioned in 1:20 as messengers to the churches.
2. The Sardis Church has a good name but yet they were dead (v.1). How can this be? What are some examples near us?
3. Some churches may be described as "holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power" (2 Tim. 3:5); as having faith without works (James 2:17, 26); as having a good appearance (Ezek. 33:30-32) without conformity to God's Word.
4. Jesus says "I know your deeds." What kind of church is a "dead deeds church" in our day?

OUR RESPONSE TO CHRIST (v. 2-3)—What must we do to have a valid reputation in Christ?

1. *Determine to Stay Alert (v. 2 & 3b).*

Eccl.5:1-2; Heb.2:1-4.

Matt. 24:43-44 (1Thess. 5:2; 2Pet. 3:10).

2. *Discipline Our Spiritual Activities (v. 2)*

Heb.5:11-6:8 (cf. Phil. 3:12-14).

Bonus Section: How to strengthen our preaching experience.

Westminster Larger Catechism #160

Q. What is required of those that hear the word preached?

A. It is required of those that hear the word preached that they,

- 1) attend upon it with diligence, preparation and prayer;
(Prov.8:34; 1Pet.2:1-2; Luke8:18; Psa.119:18; Eph.6:18-19)
- 2) examine what they hear by the scriptures;
(Acts17:11)
- 3) receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God;
(Heb.4:2; 2Thess.2:10; James1:21; Acts17:11; 1Thess.2:18)
- 4) meditate and confer of it;
(Luke9:44; Heb.2:1; Luke24:14; Deut.6:6-7)
- 5) hide it in their hearts;
(Prov.2:1; Psa.119:11)
- 6) and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.
(Luke8:15; James1:25)

3. *Destroy Our Sinful Activities (v. 3a)*

Revelation 22:12-14

OUR REWARDS IN CHRIST (v. 4-5)

1. *Everlasting Cleansing (v. 4)*

Isa. 61:10; Rev. 19:7-8

2. *Everlasting Citizenship (v. 5a)*

Luke 2:20; Rev. 20:15

3. *Everlasting Confirmation (v. 5b)*

Matt. 10:32; Luke 12:8,9