

“Wake up!”

Revelation 3:1-13
February 16, 2020

“Wake up!”

Main idea of the texts:

- Spiritual lethargy and compromise will bring destruction to a church, but Christ is faithful to graciously call those who will hear back to faithfulness and life. (vs.1-6)**
- Though she may be of little account to earthly standards, the church that remains faithful to the Savior, the Gospel, and the Great Commission will be rewarded by her God. (vs.7-13)**

“Wake up!”

Revelation 3:1

1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

“Wake up!”

“This church receives no word of commendation or congratulations. There is not a single word of praise...

They were a zombie church!”

Christ-Centered Exposition: Revelation

“Wake up!”

Revelation 3:2-3

2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. **3** Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

“Wake up!”

“The metaphor of the thief, with its elements of surprise and unpreparedness, is a familiar one in New Testament eschatology... In this context, however, Jesus promise refers not to His coming at the Parousia, but to an imminent coming in judgment.

Unless the Christians in Sardis repent and demonstrate their faith through deeds consistent with the gospel, Jesus will come at a time unknown to them.”

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background
Commentary: Revelation**

“Wake up!”

Revelation 3:4-6

4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. **5** The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. **6** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

“Wake up!”

“White clothing is used in Revelation to depict moral and ritual purity... A minority of the believers in Sardis have remained faithful, and Jesus promises that they will be dressed in white as victors... Those who overcome are promised that they will never lose their citizenship in the heavenly city.”

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background
Commentary: Revelation**

“Wake up!”

Revelation 3:7

7 “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

“Wake up!”

**“What we do know is that it was
a church that pleased Jesus.
Like the church at Smyrna, our
Lord had no word of criticism
or correction.”**

Christ-Centered Exposition: Revelation

“Wake up!”

Revelation 3:8-9

8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. **9** I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars — I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

“Wake up!”

“The Philadelphians have little strength to exercise their God-given key of authority undoubtedly because of the opposition of the “synagogue of Satan.” Therefore, Jesus intervenes and opens a door for them that their opponents cannot shut...

**This dramatic
acknowledgement that God's
covenant love now rests on
Jewish and Gentile believers is
Jesus' sign to the Philadelphians
that He holds to key."**

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background
Commentary: Revelation**

“Wake up!”

Revelation 3:10-11

10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. **11** I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

“Wake up!”

“The time of testing and tribulation before God’s kingdom comes in its fullness.”

NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible

“Wake up!”

Revelation 3:12-13

12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. **13**

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

“Wake up!”

“This promise of eternal security and safety would certainly comfort the Philadelphians always living with the threat of imminent destruction by an earthquake... Upon the pillars/believers will be written three names-that of God, the heavenly new Jerusalem, and the new name of Jesus.”

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background
Commentary: Revelation**

Life Applications

- **We must have vitality and love and a desire for the lost in our churches**
- **Jesus will bless our faithfulness**
- **Jesus will condemn our laziness**

Final Thoughts

Fatal causes of a “Deceased Church”

- **Treating the past as the hero**
- **Refusing to adapt to the needs of the present community**
- **Moving the focus of the budget inward**
- **Allowing the Great Commission to become the Great Omission**

- **Letting the church become preference-driven out of selfishness and personal agendas**
- **Seeing the tenure of the pastor decrease**
- **Failing to have regular corporate prayer**
- **Having no clear purpose and vision**
- **Obsessing over the facilities**

Final Thoughts

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”