

**Final Countdown: The Book Of Revelation**  
**“What Jesus Says To A Dead Church” #7**  
**(How To Bring Faith Back To Life)**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**September 13, 2020**

**Big Idea:** God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the World.

“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!**” **Revelation 3:1-2a (NIV)**

**Four Action Steps To Bring Back To Life What Seems Dead:**

**I. Examine The Gap Between My Reputation And Reality**

“Wake up!” **Revelation 3:2a (NIV)**

“Instead, let us test and **examine** our ways. Let us turn back to the LORD.”  
**Lamentations 3:40 (NLT2)**

“**Confess** your sins to each other and **pray** for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces **wonderful results.**” **James 5:16 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Strengthen The Few Good Things I Do Have**

“**Strengthen** what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. **Remember**, therefore, what you have **received** and **heard; obey it...**” **Revelation 3:2b-3a (NIV)**

“Therefore put on the **full armor of God**, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **Stand firm** then, with the belt of **truth** buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of **righteousness** in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the **gospel of peace**. In addition to all this, take up the shield of **faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of **salvation** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word** of God. And **pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

**Ephesians 6:13-18 (NIV)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. Repent And Choose To Take A Step In The Right Direction**

**“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.” **Revelation 3:2b-3 (NIV)**

“When you lift up your hands in prayer, I will not look. Though you offer many prayers, I will not listen, for your hands are covered with the blood of innocent victims. **Wash** yourselves and be clean! Get your sins out of my sight. **Give up your evil ways.** Learn to **do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend** the cause of orphans. Fight for the **rights of widows.** “Come now, let’s settle this,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, **I will make them as white as wool.**” **Isaiah 1:15-18 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### **4. Be Prepared For The Return Of Jesus**

“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. He who **overcomes** will, like them, be **dressed in white. I will never blot out his name** from the book of life, but will **acknowledge** his name before my Father and his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **Revelation 3:4-6 (NIV)**

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, **'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'**" **Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB)**

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids – **Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)**

#### **The promise for those who overcome:**

- We will walk with Jesus
- We will be clothed in white
- Our names will never be erased from the Book of Life.
- Jesus will announce us before His Father and His angels that we are His.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **If Jesus came back today, would I be ready?**

#### **My next right step, I will:**

- [ ] Choose to do a spiritual inventory and begin to close my gap
- [ ] Join our zoom Bible Study on the Book of Revelation-Tuesdays 6:30 pm
- [ ] Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior
- [ ] Participate in The Return: Global Day of Prayer & Repentance – Sept. 26

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**Family Corner:** [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it under 12 minutes.]

**Small Groups:** [Choose as many questions that honor your group’s time commitment]

**Open in Prayer:**

- What thoughts from this week’s message encourage you to live like Jesus?

**Icebreaker:** What group, or team of yours, had a reputation far better than its performance?

**Review the Remember Verse** “**Blessed** is the one who **reads** the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who **hear** it and **take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near.” **Revelation 1:3 (NIV)**

**Read Revelation 3:1-6**

**Four Action Steps To Bring Back To Life What Seems Dead:**

**I. Examine The Gap Between My Reputation And Reality**

**Read Revelation 3:1-2a**

What is the contrast between the reputation and reality of Sardis?

What dangers exist for Christians who rely on image instead of nurturing a genuine spiritual life?

**Read James 5:16**

We all have gaps in our character where it doesn’t match our reputation.

Admitting that we need help is often the first step in improving. Which areas do you feel you need to work on?

Contentment? Peace? Humility? Honesty? Forgiveness? Other?

Who do you have to help you grow in these areas?

## **2. Strengthen The Few Good Things I Do Have**

### **Read Revelation 3:2-3**

What have you received and hear that you can strengthen?

### **Ephesians 6:13-18**

Which piece of armor do you do well?

[Truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, salvation, Word of God, Prayer]

Choose one area and share how you can strengthen in this area.

## **3. Repent And Choose To Take A Step In The Right Direction**

### **Read Revelation 3:2-3**

Right now, would Jesus need a fire alarm or a quiet call to wake you?

How would you describe repentance?

### **Read Isaiah 1:15-18**

How does this passage address repentance and forgiveness?

What is God's promise to us?

How does He want us to respond?

## **4. Be Prepared For The Return Of Jesus**

### **Read Revelation 3:4-6**

What promises does Jesus give for those who overcome?

How does this encourage you?

### **Read Matthew 25:1-13**

What do you learn from this parable?

Are you ready for Jesus to return?

Close in Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_