

Hold Fast (2/9/25)

Discussion Questions

Summary: All seven letters from Jesus are a wake up call, but the letter to Sardis is explicitly a command from King Jesus to “wake up!” Most of the members of this church had become sleepy and sluggish in their faith, devotion and service to the point that Jesus declared them dead (or at least mostly dead). Still, there was hope if they would wake up and repent. As we pray for revival in our church and the church of our region, let’s heed the call of Christ in this letter to: 1) recognize our true spiritual condition; 2) remember the gospel and repent and; 3) resist the contaminating effects of sin.

*“Therefore, **stay awake**, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming... Therefore you also must **be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”* Matthew 24:42,44

Stay Alert:

1. Recognize your spiritual **Condition** (dead / alive; weak / strong; asleep / awake; incomplete / complete; v. 1-2)
2. Remember the **Gospel** and repent (v. 3; Rom. 10:9-10): **Surrender** (Mk. 8:34-35)
 - a. Sanctification - being **Clothed** with the righteousness of Jesus and walking in His ways (1 Cor. 6:11)
 - b. Justification - being **Counted** righteous by Jesus through faith in Him (Rom. 3:23-24)
 - c. Identification - being **Confessed** as one with Jesus to God the Father (Mark 8:38; 1 Cor. 4:5)
3. Resist the **Contaminating** effects of sin (v. 4; Eph. 4:22-24)

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” Matthew 25:35-36

Get Started:

1. What time do you usually go to bed? Why?
2. Share about a time you had to stay up late but were very tired. How did it work out?

Dig Deeper:

3. Read Revelation 3:1-6. What stands out to you in this passage?
4. How is Jesus introduced and described in v. 1? Why do you think that is significant?
5. What does Jesus affirm about the church in Sardis (v. 1, 4)? What does the delayed affirmation (v. 4) indicate?
6. What does Jesus confront in this church (v. 2-3)?
7. How does Jesus exhort the believers in Sardis (v. 2-4)? How do you think they felt as they heard this?
8. How do the promises in vv. 5-6 encourage you?

Move Forward:

9. In what ways is the American church “sleepy” now? What do you think are some factors that contribute to this?

10. How is the Lord speaking to you personally through this letter? What specific steps could you take to be more proactive in your spiritual life and/or ministry work?
11. How could our group be more proactive in our spiritual life and ministry work?
12. For our homework this week, let's read Matthew 24-25 (see <https://www.oakwoodfl.org/blog/>).
13. How can we pray for you today?