**“HOLD TO WHAT YOU FIRST BELIEVED”**

**Revelation 3:1-6**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Point of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*What part of the Sermon did you find to be the most beneficial?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

* 1. What is the absolute dirtiest (we’re talking mud and slime here) you’ve ever gotten? When and how did it happen?
  2. What is the difference between character and reputation?
  3. Which do you think is worse—wrongfully having a bad reputation, or wrongfully having a good reputation? Why?
  4. When are you most prone to being lazy?

**Revelation 3:1-6 (NLT2)**   
1  “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: “I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.   
2  Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God.   
3  Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don’t wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.   
4  “Yet there are some in the church in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes with evil. They will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.   
5  All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.   
6  “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

***EXPLORE***

* + 1. What church was the focus of this letter from Jesus? ([3:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A1))
    2. What did Christ know about the church at Sardis? ([3:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A1))
    3. How did the church’s true nature match its reputation? ([3:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A1))

* + 1. What was wrong with the church at Sardis? ([3:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A2))
    2. What did Christ urge as the first step to restoration? ([3:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A3))
    3. What consequences were promised to those who refused to wake up? ([3:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A3))

* + 1. What blessings were promised to those who would "overcome"? ([3:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A5))

***APPLY***

* 1. How can a person know if his or her name is in the Book of Life?
  2. What do you think is your reputation among your coworkers? Neighbors? People at church?
  3. When in your life has your reputation been misleading? How?
  4. How can a church appear to be alive and thriving and yet be dead?
  5. In what specific areas of Christian devotion (Bible reading, evangelism, prayer, etc.) have you been lazy or sleepy over the last month?
  6. Do you think the call to keep the gospel is a call to stop growing as a Christian? Does holding to the same gospel from beginning to end mean spiritual stagnation?

**Additional Thoughts:**

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