

I've Written You a Letter... Jesus

REVELATION CHAPTERS 2 & 3

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Sardis...Spiritually Dead, Relationally Numb...Revelation 3:1-6

"You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins." ...Colossians 2:13

Words of Wisdom • *"My eyes are dry, my faith is old, my heart is hard, my prayers are cold...And I know how I ought to be, ...Alive to You and dead to me. But what can be done, for an old heart like mine?...Soften it up, with oil and wine. The oil is You, Your Spirit of love, please wash me anew with the wine of Your Blood" ~Keith Green, My Eyes Are Dry*

"I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent." ...Revelation 3:1-3

1. The Church in Sardis...The Church in History to Today...YOU!

- The Church in Ephesus...a Love left behind (internal opposition)
- The Church in Smyrna...Trials and Persecution (external opposition)
- The Church in Pergamos...Their trap of Compromise (lowering standards)
- The Church in Thyatira...Corrupt Tolerance (allowing sin)

2. A Misplaced Mindset...

Scripture: Revelation 3:1-2, James 1:14, Colossians 2:13, (Mark 14:29-31, Luke 22:61-62, John 21:1-3, 4-17)

3. Be **W.I.S.E.**

- Be **Watchful** ("Wake-Up!")... Revelation 3:2, 1Peter 5:8-9, 1Corinthians 16:13-14
- Be **Intentional**...James 1:22-25
- Be **Strengthened**... 1Corinthians 15:58, Ephesians 6:10-18
- Be **Effective**...Ephesians 5:15-18
- Remember...Repent...Restart (Start Over) ...Revelation 2:5, Revelation 3:3

4. A Restored Mindset...Strength and Peace through Trust, Obedience, and Worship...

Scripture: Revelation 3:4-6, Romans 8:37-39, John 14:27, Psalm 139:1-18

- "More than Conquerors"
- Trust + Praise = Peace

Group Discussion

1. In speaking to the church in Sardis, and to many today, the Lord Jesus said, *“I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.”*

- Have you ever felt Spiritually Dead and Relationally Numb, but continued to “appear” to be fine? ...Explain

2. We need to be aware of the things that pull us away from the Faith, Trust, and Confidence that we have with the Lord Jesus, and stay away from everything that weakens us...

- What kind of struggles have you experienced that have caused you to pull away from an active relationship with the Lord Jesus?

3. How can you apply each of the following areas of being **W.I.S.E.** to your daily life?...

- Be **W**atchful (“Wake-Up!”) -
- Be **I**ntentional -
- Be **S**trengthened -
- Be **E**ffective -

4. Identify and talk about the choices and actions that strengthen your Faith, Trust, and Confidence in the Lord...

- What changes can you make to strengthen your Faith and Trust in the Lord, and cause you to be close with Him and walk in confidence that He is always with you in every situation?
- What action will you take to bring private worship and prayer into your life?

Prayer

Take a few moments to share any Prayer Requests with the men in your Group. Write down any requests and commit to pray for one another throughout the week.

(It's great to know that other guys are praying for the important things in your life...and it's great to be praying for the important things in their lives!)

How do the **5 Principles for the Christian Man**, help equip you to apply this to your life?

Discuss your answer with your group...

- Prayer (*Relationship*)
- God's Word (*Knowledge and Understanding*)
- Worship (*Adoration*)
- Fellowship (*Encouragement and Accountability*)
- Service (*Caring for Others, Action to your Belief*)