

Dead In The Water
Revelation 3: 1-6

What Jesus sees is...

- **A church in need of _____.**
- **A church in need of the _____.**
- **A church in need of _____.**

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Message Application:

Today we looked at the church of the city of Sardis. It is interesting that the church of Sardis reflected the city of Sardis. Both were NOT what they seemed. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus records that when the king of Persa came to conquer Sardis, he found the walls too fortified to siege. Sardis had three sides of the city defended by these walls. One side of Sardis was backed up to a sheer cliff mountain that no army could scale. It seemed the Persian King Cyrus had met his match.

Then one of Cyrus' soldiers observed something incredible. He saw one of the Sardinian soldiers drop his helmet down the cliff wall. The watchful soldier looked on as the Sardinian climbed down a secret path and retrieved his helmet. That night the observant Persian led his troops up the discovered path. When they reached the top of the cliff they found the entry into the city unguarded. The city of Sardis thought they were safe, yet the city fell to Persa that night. The city of Sardis was asleep when Cyrus entered and claimed it for his own.

In our Scripture lesson today we hear Jesus tell his church in Sardis, *“Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead.”* Rev. 3:2a The Christians of Sardis had dropped their defense against Satan and he had snuck in. The church had mistakenly trusted good works and looking good from the outside instead of trusting the power of God's Spirit to infuse their work!

I wish that the same hadn't happened to the church in our day, but I fear it has. Style instead of substance. Shallow beliefs instead of deep rooted doctrine. Please wake up brothers and sisters! Let our conduct be that of which Christ would be pleased with. Let us be about cultivating the fruit of the Holy Spirit instead of cultivating our culture of darkness. Remember, the Word to Sardis is also the Word to us.

Grace & Peace,

Wm. Lyons