

## Sermon Questions

### Revelation 3:1-13

This week we compared and contrasted the dead and the dependent church. The church in Sardis had a reputation for being alive but God said it was a dead church. The church in Philadelphia, on the other hand, had little power but God declared it faithful and strong in the Lord. Studying these churches in the book of Revelation provides insight for how God is leading His church and what He values. Not only should we be serving in a life-giving church, but we should be life-giving Christians who are growing and maturing in the Lord. As you listen to this week's message and ponder the questions, allow the Spirit of God to help you understand what you need to learn.

Here are some notes to review from this week's sermon...

### **The Structure of the Letters**

1. Recipient
2. Attribute of Christ
3. Strengths
4. Weaknesses
5. Challenge
6. Promise for the Listener

### **The Dead and the Dependent**

#### **Revelation 3:1-13**

#### **Sardis: The Dead Church**

Repent and believe that Jesus Christ is LORD

#### **Philadelphia: The Dependent Church**

Continue to trust Christ alone

Hearing the Word of God and responding to Him is extremely important. If you haven't had the chance to listen to the message from this week you can now watch it here. After watching, please use the following questions (if you find them helpful) in your BRAVE groups (now online every weekday) or discuss them with your family and/or friends. If you are not in a BRAVE Group now is a great time to get involved. Please email to [info@bravechurch.co](mailto:info@bravechurch.co) and we will get you connected with a community that will work for you.

## Questions

1. How is Jesus Christ pictured in His letter to the church in Sardis? How comforting is it to know that Christ works in tandem with the Holy Spirit of God? What is the significance of Christ having authority over the pastors and the elders?
2. What were the strengths of the church at Sardis? Were there any? Why does Christ not start by commending the strengths of this church?
3. What does it mean to have a reputation of being alive but actually being dead? What is the difference between our reputation and our character? Which of these two is most important? Why? Why was the understanding of their status before Christ actually opposite of what they thought?
4. Had you been sitting in the congregation in Sardis how would these words have sounded to you when they were read? How would you have responded?
5. Why does God call them to wake up? How does one “wake up” spiritually? Who does the waking? How?
6. Pastor Jeff mentioned several activities that a church may have without having the Spirit of God? How can you know if the church you attend has the Spirit of God? How can you know if a church is dead? How do you know if you should stay?
7. What is the Gospel? How important is our understanding of sin and repentance? How important is it to understand the exclusivity of Christ and our faith in Him?
8. What are three promises mentioned to the believers in Christ? How comforting is it to know that you will be dressed in purity and righteousness? That your name will not be erased from the book of life when you die? That you will be presented faultless to the Father?
9. How was Jesus Christ addressed to the church in Philadelphia? How important is the access and authority Christ has through the key of David?
10. How much power did the church in Philadelphia have? Why is having little power actually a strength? Why is keeping Christ’s reputation and His Word so important? Why is dependence such a value to the Lord?
11. How comforting is it to realize that God will even make your enemies come and bow before you and show them that He loves you? Since we don’t need to vindicate ourselves, what should we do with people who are against us? How does this grow us in the likeness of Christ?

12. How does dependence on Christ allow for greater opportunities from God? If God opens a door for a church who can close it? If God closes a door for a church who can open it? When God opens or closes a door what should be our response?
13. How do we grow in our dependence on Christ? Why is prayer the barometer for our level of dependence? How can we grow in our times of prayer individually and corporately?
14. Why is it significant for us to understand that God promises to keep the church from the hour of testing? Should we fear the future?
15. What does it mean to hang on Christ in this season? Why should we hang on to Christ when he is already hanging onto us?
16. How are we going to be a pillar for God? Why is it important to understand that we are immovable in the coming kingdom?
17. As you compare and contrast the dead and dependent church how would you grade your own church? Why? What is going well? How can it be improved?
18. What specific actions is God calling you to take as a result of hearing and studying His Word this week?