Session 7
Reputation or reality! - Rev 3:1-6

I. Review

A. **Tolerating immorality unto being seduced?**

II. Church of Sardis

A. Background

1. Artemis Temple – like Ephesus

B. Reputation to be proud of

1. Prominence in history – Capital of the province of Lydia
   a. Kingdom
   b. Satrap of Persia
   c. Invented the COIN as a means of currency

C. Reminder: who was Jesus speaking to?

1. The Church in the city – corporate application
2. The Leaders of the Church – leadership responsibility & action
3. The Individuals of the Church – believer's responsibility & action

III. What does Jesus say to them?

A. Look at me!

1. I have the seven Spirits – Is 11
2. I have the seven stars - Leadership

B. I Know

1. You have a name that you're alive, but you are dead!
   a. Our reputation of yesterday is that we are alive, but He knows today's reality
   b. White washed sepulchers, but dead on the inside Mt 23:27-28
2. Your deeds – they're not complete in the eyes of My Father
   a. It's not time to rest from your labor yet. Eph 2
3. Being asleep – what does He mean?
   a. Physical vs Spiritual
   b. Ways we rest
   c. Lingering too long is dangerous
   d. Don't get comfortable there
      (1) Easy to do
      (2) Get caught up in being out of the battle

C. Wake up! Remember & Repent

1. Wake up
2. Strengthen what is about to die! How?
3. Remember what your received
   a. Salvation
   b. Grace upon grace
4. What you have heard
   a. The Word of life 1 Jn 1:1-3
   b. The Testimonies of what God has done
      (1) Hab 3:2
      (2) Ps 119:2
      (3) Ps 119:24, 31, 46, 59
5. Keep it
   a. Guard, hold onto, be watchful

D. If you do not wake up

1. I will come <u>against</u> you like a thief – Pro 24:34
   a. This is not the rapture
   b. What does a thief cause?
2. I will cause you loss
   a. Rev 16:15 – Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.

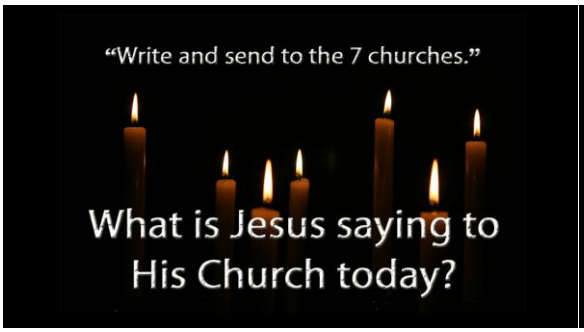
E. To those few who have not soiled their garments

1. Soiled?
2. Garments?
3. Walk with Me in white for they are worthy
   a. White=Light (Leukos)
      (1) Mt 17:1-2 – white like light; Mk 9:3 – radiant; Lk 9:29 - gleaming
   b. Worthy
      (1) Eph 4:1; Phil 1:27; Col 1:10; 1 Th 2:12; 2 Th 1:11; Mt 10:37-38

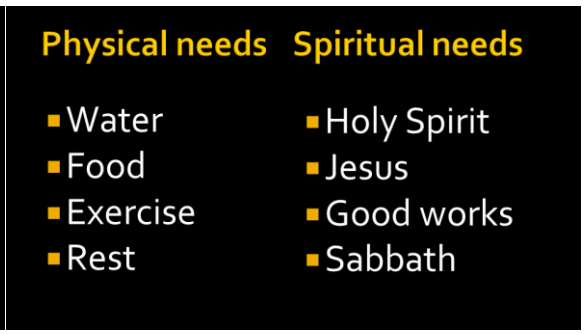
F. To those who overcome

1. Who wake up
   a. I will NOT erase their name from the book of life
      (1) This is not about salvation
         (a) Ps 69:28; Rev 20:15
      (2) Reputation – those things they have done to earn reward
         (a) Neh 13:14
2. I will confess (declare) his name!

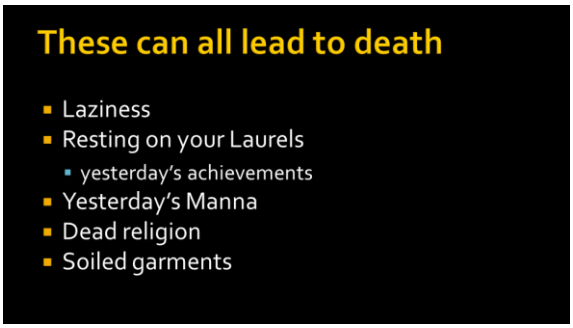
Slides


"Write and send to the 7 churches."
What is Jesus saying to His Church today?

Church of Sardis
Pergamum
Thyatira
Smyrna
Sardis
Ephesus


Physical needs
Water
Food
Exercise
Rest
Spiritual needs
Holy Spirit
Jesus
Good works
Sabbath

Ways we rest
Nightly sleep
Day off
Vacation
Illness & Hospital
Battle Fatigue
Seasons of life
Retired
Coasting
Hiding/Fear
Checked out
Quit


These can all lead to death
Laziness
Resting on your Laurels
yesterday's achievements
Yesterday's Manna
Dead religion
Soiled garments