



February 1, 2026

Kevin Sneed

Revelation 3:1-6

Introduction

This week's message examines Jesus' wake-up call to the church in Sardis—a congregation that looked alive on the outside but was spiritually dead on the inside. Kevin Sneed connects Jesus' Garden of Gethsemane plea for His disciples to "keep watch" with His urgent command to Sardis to "wake up." The message challenges us to examine the disconnect between our reputation and reality, between external religiosity and internal vitality. Through exploring the twin dangers of complacency and self-deception, we're reminded that the antidote is found in remembrance and repentance—not as guilt management, but as re-entering the transformative power of the gospel here and now.

Key Texts:

Revelation 3:1-6; Matthew 26:40-41; Philippians 3:10-11; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Isaiah 11:2-3

Icebreaker

What's something in your life where the reputation doesn't quite match the reality—maybe a skill people think you have, a habit you're "known for" but struggle with, or an area where you appear more put-together than you feel?

Discussion Questions

1. Kevin opened with Jesus in Gethsemane asking His disciples, "Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?" He connected this to Revelation's call to "wake up." What areas of your spiritual life feel like you've fallen asleep or stopped paying attention?
2. **Read Revelation 3:1 together.** Jesus says to Sardis: "You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead." Why is reputation so powerful in our culture? How can a good reputation actually become dangerous to our spiritual health?
3. The Greek word *ergon* means "a deed that carries out an inner desire"—suggesting alignment between what's inside and what's outside. Where do you sense a disconnect between your internal spiritual life and your external religious activity?

4. **Read Philippians 3:10-11 together.** Paul wanted to "know Christ" with experiential knowledge through "participation in his sufferings." How does suffering or struggle actually deepen our knowledge of Jesus rather than just head knowledge about Him?
 5. Kevin identified complacency as the problem of "desiring too little" and falling into lesser loves. What "lesser loves" are most tempting for you when spiritual passion fades? What helps you remember God's daily manna and goodness?
 6. Self-deception was described as a cancer, especially for long-time Christians. What practices or relationships help you stay honest about your actual spiritual condition rather than living off past reputation?
 7. **Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 together.** The call to "remembrance" isn't about managing guilt but "re-entering the life-giving, transformative power of the gospel here and now." What would it look like for you to practice remembrance this week—to wake up to God's presence and power rather than drift on autopilot?
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Key Takeaways

- There's often a disconnect between our reputation and our reality
 - Complacency comes from desiring too little, not too much
 - Self-deception is a special danger for long-time believers
 - Remembrance means daily returning to see God's movement and goodness
 - Repentance isn't about guilt—it's about re-entering gospel transformation
 - The antidote to spiritual sleep is waking up to participate in Christ's life
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Notes