

Introduction

- Ch2-3: specific message for each of the seven churches
- Sardis
- Known for:
 - Acropolis – nearly impregnable fortress on north side of city
 - Necropolis (cemetery) of ‘a thousand hills’ – massive burial mounds right outside city
 - Red dye- claimed to be 1st to discover art of dying wool



Write to angel of church	To the angel of the church in Sardis write
Description of Jesus	Him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars
Encouragement	- - None given - -
Correction	you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead... I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God
Call to repent	Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent
Potential punishment	if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you
Promise to overcomers	The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels
Call to listen	Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Call to Sardis



- Wake up – lit. ‘be watchful’
- Strengthen what remains – to cause someone to become more firm in their beliefs
- Remember
 - What they received – the Holy Spirit
 - What they heard – the Gospel of the Kingdom
- Hold fast – to guard
- Repent- to turn in a different (in their case old) direction

Wake up



Why do we get spiritually sleepy?

- **We are bored** – religious ritual vs living relationship
- **We are out of shape** – no external circumstances that require us to stay spiritually sharp
- **We are distracted** – Jesus whispers to us while our culture yells at us

How to stay awake



- **Remember you are on a mission** – God created good works in advance for you to do; we are to ‘go into all the world’ to tell people about Jesus and His Kingdom
- **Exercise regularly** – put yourself in positions to use your spiritual ‘muscles;’ remember to vary your routine
- **Pay attention** – Jesus is always at work, if we are keeping in step w/Holy Spirit we won’t fall asleep