

Revelation 3:1-6 "Wake up!"

Read Revelation 3:1-6

1. When we think of an "alive" church, what sorts of attributes or characteristics mark them? Are these truly marks of the kind of life Jesus is looking for?
2. The church in Sardis had the reputation of being alive, but Jesus' analysis was that they were dead. In the sermon Tim gave some reflections from the archeological discoveries in ancient Sardis. Christians marked their shops with crosses, but those same shops also contained pagan symbols. A Christian church was uncovered on the far end of the temple to the fertility goddess kibbulah. It appears that they were mingling the worldview and cultural idolatries of their city with their faith in Jesus. What are some of the elements of our worldview and cultural idolatries that we intermingle with faith in Jesus in the contemporary church?
3. If we recognize the condition of Sardis in us this text gives us a lifeline. A chain of linked commands that give us a way back. Wake up, strengthen, Remember, Keep, Repent. What do you think each means and which do you think would be the most important for you to put into practice personally?
4. What are the promises that Jesus gives to those who heed his words, and how might they enable us to let go of everything but Jesus?
5. True life is a gift of the Spirit. The vision of Jesus that is given in the first verse has him holding not only the fullness of the Spirit but also the fullness of the church. How can we as individuals and as a community be more open to the fullness of the Spirit's enlivening?