

TO: Whoever has ears,  
let them hear...

# Letters to the CHURCH

FROM (the):  
Book of Revelation

# STUDY GUIDE

## Week 5



# WEEK 4 – SARDIS & PERGAMUM

## Monday – Sardis: Reputation vs. Reality

**Read:** Revelation 3:1, 1 Samuel 16:7, John 7:24

The city of Sardis had a reputation for strength, wealth, and success—but that reputation wasn't the full story. Twice in history, the city was overtaken because it was overconfident, assuming its position on a high hill made it untouchable, which led to its downfall. The church in Sardis reflected the same pattern. On the outside, it looked spiritually alive, but Jesus saw what others couldn't. He called out their reality – they weren't alive, they were spiritually asleep. Jesus introduces Himself as the one who holds the seven stars, reminding Sardis that He is sovereign, not them. What matters to Jesus is not how things look on the surface, but the truth that lies underneath. He doesn't deal in appearances. He sees hearts.

**What stands out to you about these scriptures?**

**Are there areas in your life that appear strong on the outside, but on closer look, aren't what they seem? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify any 'dead' places and invite Him to breathe life into them again.**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank You that You see the truth about me, even when others only see the surface. Please help me to see as You see. Breathe life into the areas of my life that have grown still, and wake me up to Your presence again. Amen.



**In your Discipleship Group this week, talk about the ways the world tries to deceive us with appearances. How can we guard ourselves against putting trust in something just because it looks good on the surface? What are some measures and checks we can use in our own life to make sure that we are living truly alive, not sleeping on the job?**

## Tuesday – Sardis: Rekindling the Fire

**Read:** Revelation 3:2, 1 Corinthians 13:2, 2 Corinthians 13:5, Isaiah 29:13

Jesus tells the church in Sardis that their deeds don't meet His standards—not because they're evil, but because they lack heart. Sardis wasn't under persecution like Smyrna or caught in compromise like Thyatira. Instead, they were slowly drifting into spiritual apathy. They had lost their fire. God isn't asking for perfection—He knows we'll fall short. What He asks for is passion. Heart. A deep desire to know Him and to live for Him. When Jesus calls us to "wake up," He's calling us back to that first love, that first fire. He's asking us to test ourselves and see if we're still burning for Him, passionate for His people and living on mission or simply going through the motions.

**What do these scriptures reveal about the heart of God?**

**How can you 'test' yourself to see that your fire is still burning for the things of God?**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank You that You love me exactly where I am, and You call me into more. If I've lost my fire, show me how to rekindle it. Stir my heart again for You and fill me with the desire to know and love You deeply. Amen.

## Wednesday – Sardis: Remember, Repent, and Rise Again

**Read:** Revelation 3:3, Genesis 6–9, Philippians 1:6

Jesus reminds Sardis that they didn't always lack spiritual life. They had done good things before and

He believes they can do them again. The call to remember and repent isn't a shameful one. It's hopeful. Jesus doesn't freeze us in our failures, He offers restoration and fresh strength. We're not alone in the journey. When God asked Noah to build the ark or Moses to speak to Pharaoh, He didn't leave them without help. Even Jonah, who tried to run from God's call, was given another chance. God gives us what we need to do what He asks—and He patiently invites us back when we stray.

### **What is Holy Spirit revealing through these scriptures?**

**Is there something you've given up on? Something God has asked you to do that you don't believe you can? Ask Him to show you how to rely on His strength.**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank You for believing in me even when I fall short. Thank You that You don't leave me stuck, but always provide a way forward. Help me to remember Your goodness, repent where I need to, and rise again with You. Amen.

## **Thursday - Pergamum: Faithful in a Culture of Compromise**

**Read:** Revelation 2:12–13

Pergamum was a city full of influence, wealth, and idol worship. It was the political and religious capital of the Roman province of Asia and home to temples for Zeus, Asclepius, and the imperial cult. Jesus refers to Pergamum as the place where "Satan has his throne," and yet He commends the believers there for holding tightly to His name despite the spiritual darkness around them. Jesus introduces Himself as the one with the sharp two-edged sword, reminding the church that His authority is greater than any political or religious system. In a place where refusing to worship idols meant social and economic hardship, Jesus affirms that He sees their struggle and their strength.

### **What stands out to you about these scriptures?**

**Where do you feel pressure to conform? What would it look like for you to remain faithful in that area?**

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for seeing my heart and the battles I face. Help me to hold tightly to Your name even when it's hard. Remind me that You, not culture, have the final say. Amen.

## **Friday - Pergamum: Recognising and Rejecting Compromise**

**Read:** Revelation 2:14–15, James 4:4

Even though the church in Pergamum remained faithful in name, Jesus points out that they were tolerating false teaching. Like the church in Sardis, they had allowed something to grow that didn't belong. The influence of compromise had crept in, and it was leading people away from truth. The same dangers exist today. Our culture encourages individualism, fluidity, and personal truth, but as followers of Jesus, we're called to live differently. Just because something is accepted by the world doesn't mean it should be accepted by us. Jesus calls the church to be a beacon, an example – NOT a reflection of the world around it.

### **What stands out to you about these scriptures?**

**Are there areas where you've been trying to have the best of both worlds—and losing both in the process? What is Jesus asking you to let go of?**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me into Your truth. Show me where I've allowed compromise in my life. Help me to live set apart, following You even when it's difficult. Amen.

## **Saturday - Pergamum: The Promise of a New Name**

**Read:** Revelation 2:16–17, Genesis 17:5, 15, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Acts 13:9, Matthew 16:18

Jesus ends His letter to Pergamum with a powerful promise: to those who overcome, He will give hidden manna and a white stone with a new name written on it. This is deeply personal. Throughout Scripture, God changes people's names when He's calling them into something new—Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Saul to Paul, Simon to Peter. Your past doesn't define you. The world may have labelled you with things that don't reflect who you are in Christ, but Jesus gives you a new identity. A new name. He speaks purpose into your life.



and hope into your future.

**What stands out to you about these scriptures?**

**Are there any labels you've been holding onto that Jesus wants to remove? Ask the Holy Spirit to speak your new name over you today.**

**Prayer:** God, thank You that what You say about me is more powerful than anything I've been called before. Thank You for giving me a new name and a new identity in You. Help me to see myself the way You see me. Amen.