

VENEER CHRISTIANITY

REVELATION 3:1-6

- **CHRIST:** Jesus is ever-alert —He knows all and is King over all. 3:1a

- **CORRECTION:** **Don't let following Jesus be a veneer.** 3:1b

- **CALL: WAKE UP:** Remember the gospel, guard the gospel, and repent. 3:2-4

- **CONFIRMATION:** Jesus secures the eternal destiny of those who trust in Him. 3:5-6



DEAR CHURCH

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FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. **How do you understand Jesus' description of Himself in 3:1? Do these cross-references help—Rev 1:4-5, 4:5, 5:6; Zech 4:2,6,10; Isa 11:2? How does Jesus' description make you feel?**
2. **In your life, what is one way that following Jesus can become a veneer? Where are you most vulnerable to this temptation? How do we slide into the pattern of the Pharisees (see Mat 23:25-28)?**
3. **Read Matthew 10:32-33. Can you think of a time when you failed to confess Jesus as you should have? Can you think of a time when you were bold in confessing Jesus before others? What does it look like to confess Jesus boldly and winsomely (see Col 4:6, 1 Pet 3:15-16; Rev 12:11)?**
4. **How might being bold in our allegiance to Jesus create division in our lives? How should we respond to this (see Matthew 10:34-39)?**
5. **As Christians, what are some ways that we can grow overly lax in our Christian lives, and grow to be vulnerable to attacks and defeat? How have you seen this happen in the lives of others and in your own life?**
6. **Read 3:2-4. How does Jesus command to "wake up" apply in your life (see 1 Thes 5:6; Mark 13:32-37; 1 Pet 5:8)? What does it look like, in daily life, to remember the gospel, guard the gospel, and repent from sin? Which of these stood out to you? Why?**
7. **Read Jesus' promise in 3:5-6. Does this make you question whether you can lose your salvation? Why, or why not? (see 2 Cor 5:17; Rom 11:29; Eph 1:13-14; John 10:28-29; Rom 8:30-31, 38-39; 1 John 2:19; Jude 24-25). What is encouraging to you from verses 5-6?**
8. **What is one practical encouragement you are taking away from the letter to the church at Sardis?**

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now.... Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle