

CORPSES AND CLEAN CLOTHES IN CHRIST'S CHURCH

Revelation 3:1–6

A common practice for many sport teams is to watch film from previous games. Oftentimes a coach will lead these viewings, stopping the tape from time to time to point out successes and failures, strengths and weaknesses, areas to be applauded and areas to improve. The purpose behind these sessions isn't humiliation or confrontation but, rather, refinement, motivation, and group cohesion. A good coach knows that a team rises and falls together; that while a weak member harms the whole, a strong member can inspire those faltering. Sardis, like every church since (including our own), is a team that has on her roster some who are struggling and some who are thriving. In our text today, Coach Jesus watches some game film with that congregation—correcting, challenging, affirming, and encouraging—with the ultimate goal being the strengthening, effectiveness, and growth of the entire team.

GROUP #1: THE WALKING DEAD

vv. 1–3

- The *problem* Jas 2:24; Luke 15:24
- The *consequence*
- The *solution*
 - Refocus
 - Remember
 - Retain
 - Repent

GROUP #2: THOSE DRESSED TO IMPRESS

vv. 4–6

- Await *liberty* 4:4; 7:9; Rom 7:15–24
- Enjoy *security* 20:15; John 10:27–30
- Anticipate *testimony*