

## **The Seven Churches – 5**

### **The Church at Sardis**

Begin by reading through Revelation 3:1-6. Make a note of anything especially striking and of anything that you do not understand.

#### **Exploring the church at Sardis- Questions on the passage**

Question 1 – How does Jesus describe himself? (vs 1) What message does this convey to his hearers?

Question 2 – What does Jesus say that He knows about this church and how does it contrast with their reputation? (vs 1)

Question 3 – What commands does Jesus give to the church? (vs 2,3) Why does He issue these commands?

Question 4 – What are the consequences of their failure to obey these commands? (vs 3)

Question 5 – What marks out those who are exceptions to the overall condition of the church at Sardis? (vs 4,5) What does this tell us about the situation in the rest of the church?

Question 6 – What promises does Jesus make to those whom He commends? (vs 4,5)

Try to sum up in a single sentence the issue that confronts the church at Sardis.

#### **‘He who has an ear, let him hear’ – Questions for Application**

What criteria do people use today to evaluate a church? Do you think that they are the correct criteria? What criteria should we use?

What leads to ‘spiritual sleep’ in our own lives and in the life of the church? How can we address this issue?

How big a threat is nominalism in the ‘evangelical’ church?