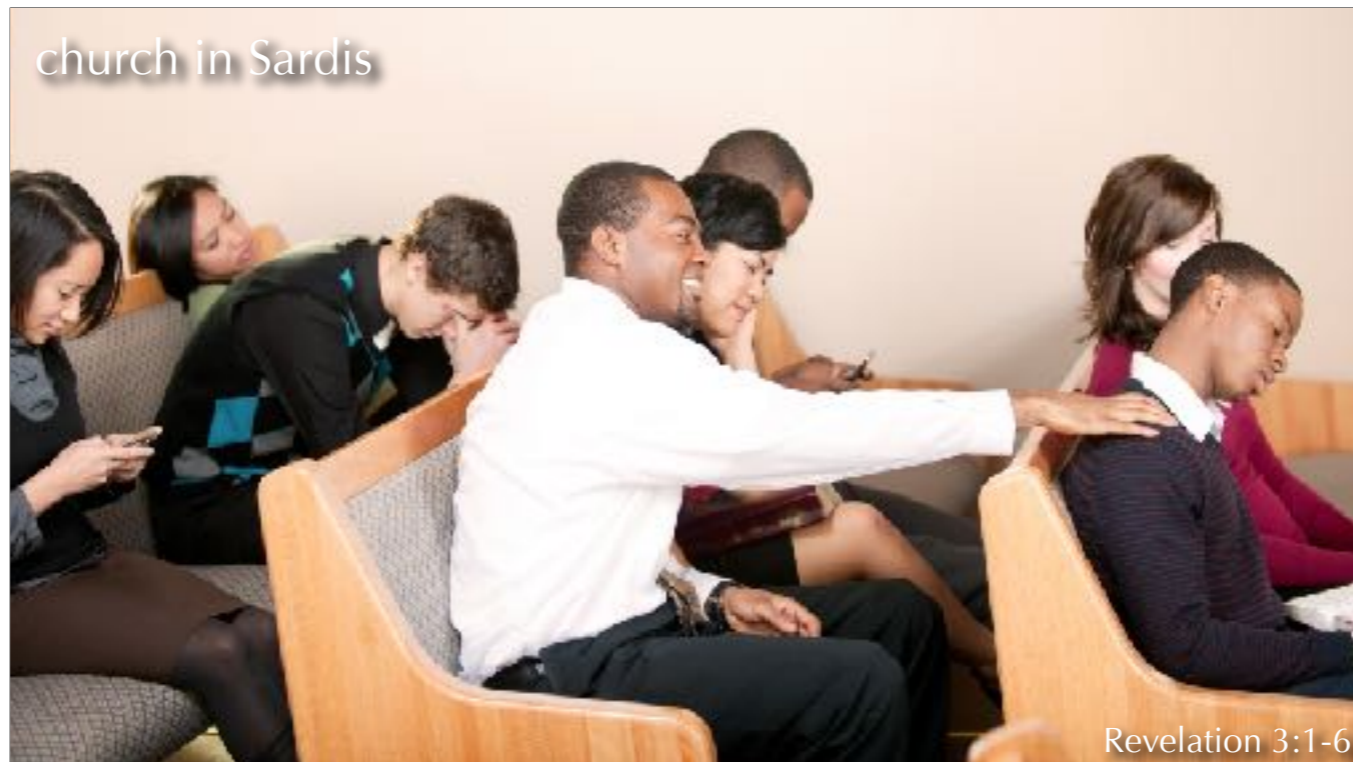
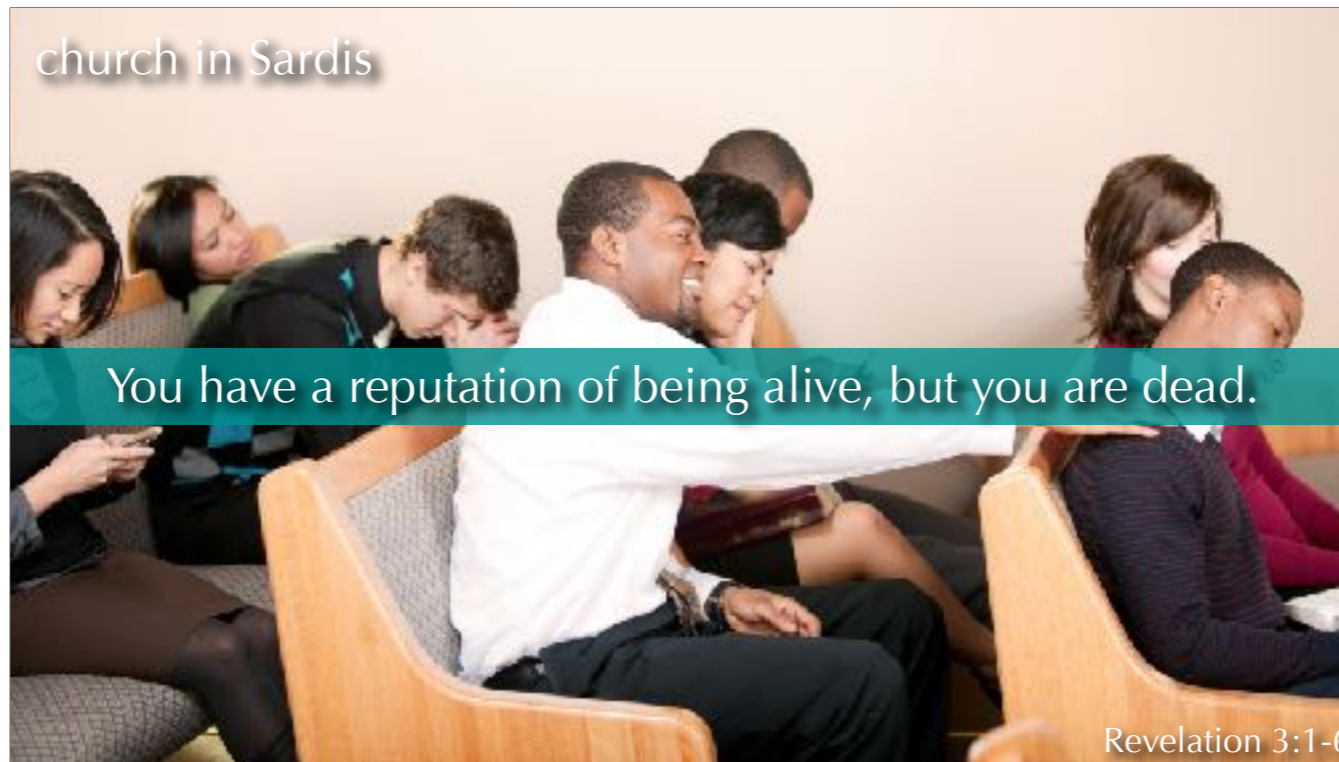




- This is not intended to be a negative lesson.
 - So if it sounds negative, sorry.
- This is a lesson intended to encourage us to better faith in Jesus and in his service.



- Revelation 3:1-6: 1 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.
- “I know your works.
- You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.
- 2 Wake up,
- and strengthen what remains and is about to die,
- for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.
- 3 Remember, then, what you received and heard.
- Keep it, and repent.
- If you will not wake up,
- I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.
-



- You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.
- Self evaluation is pretty difficult: moreso for a group (differing perspectives)
- There was something about this group that made them seem alive ... but what?
 - What criteria did they use?
 - What should we look at?



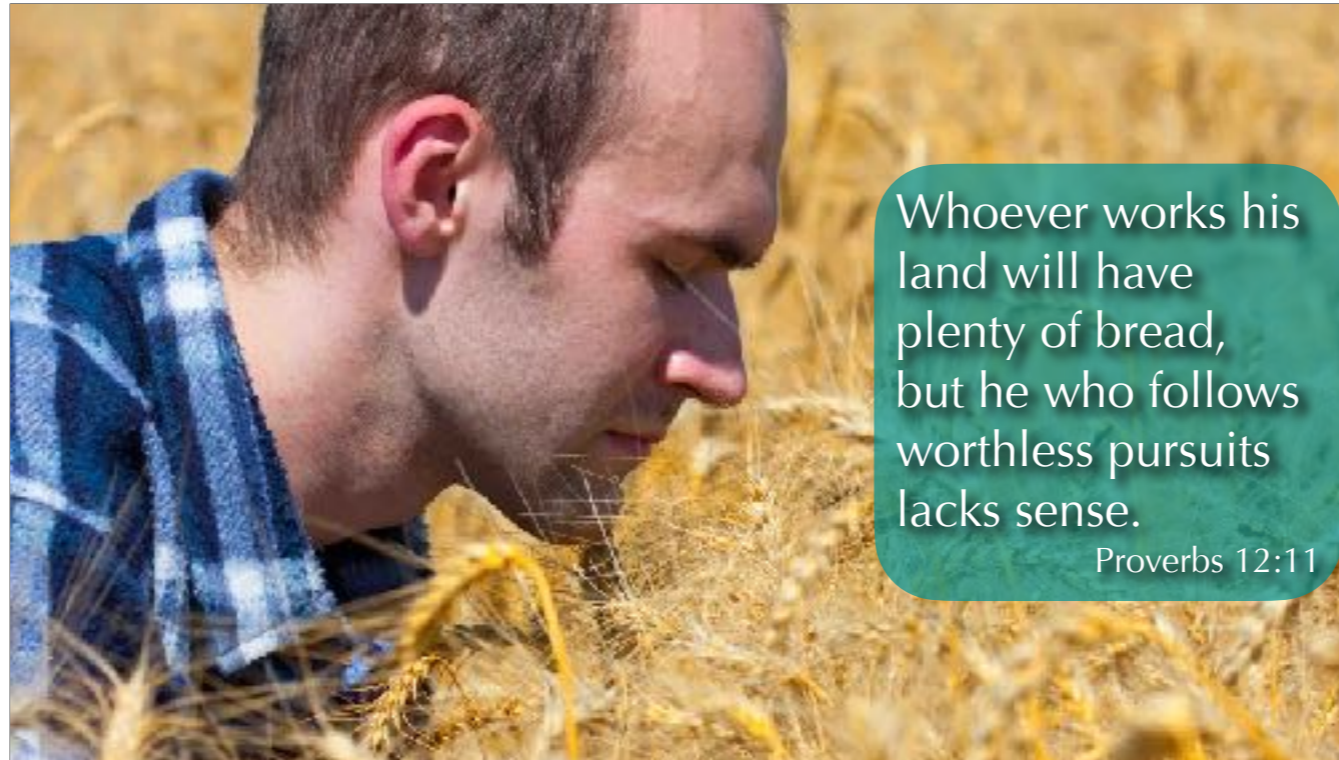
- Proverbs 20:13: Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.



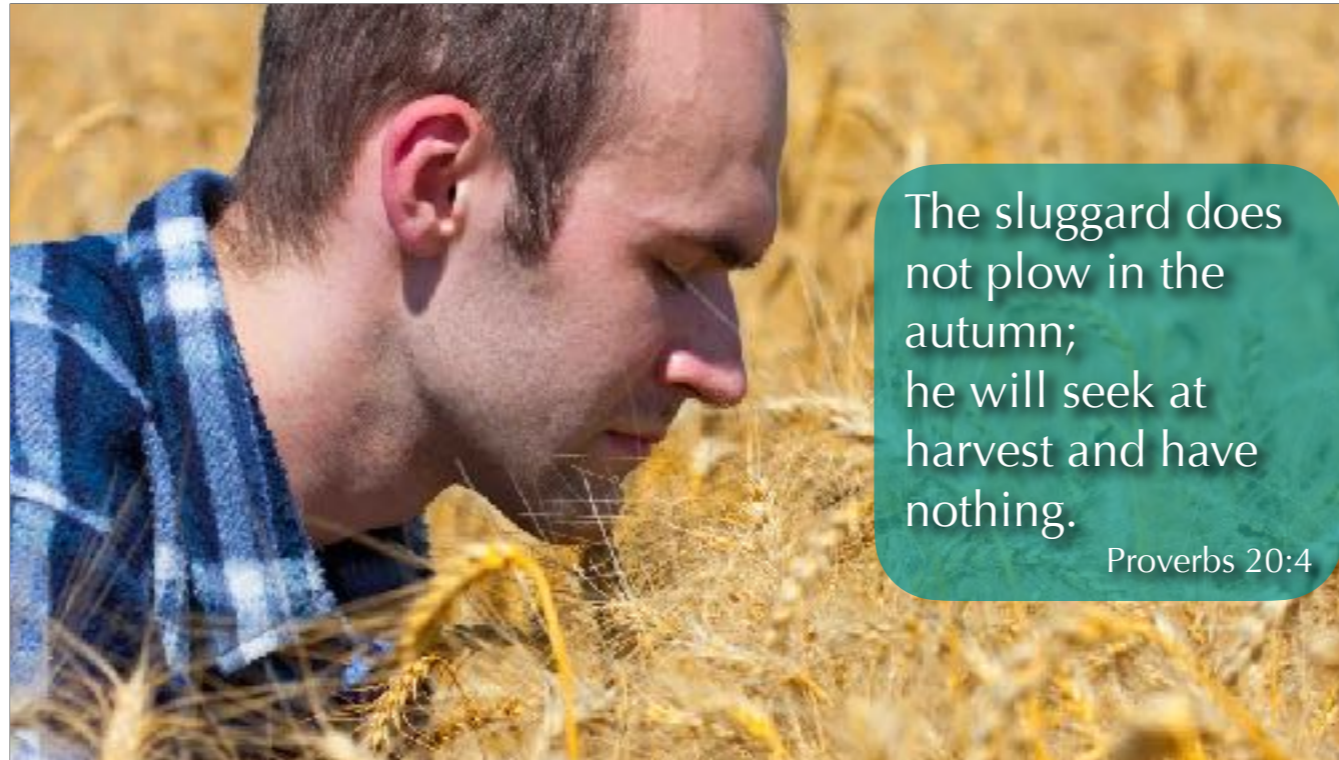
A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

Proverbs 6:10-11

- Proverbs 6:6-11: Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. 7 Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, 8 she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, 11 and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.



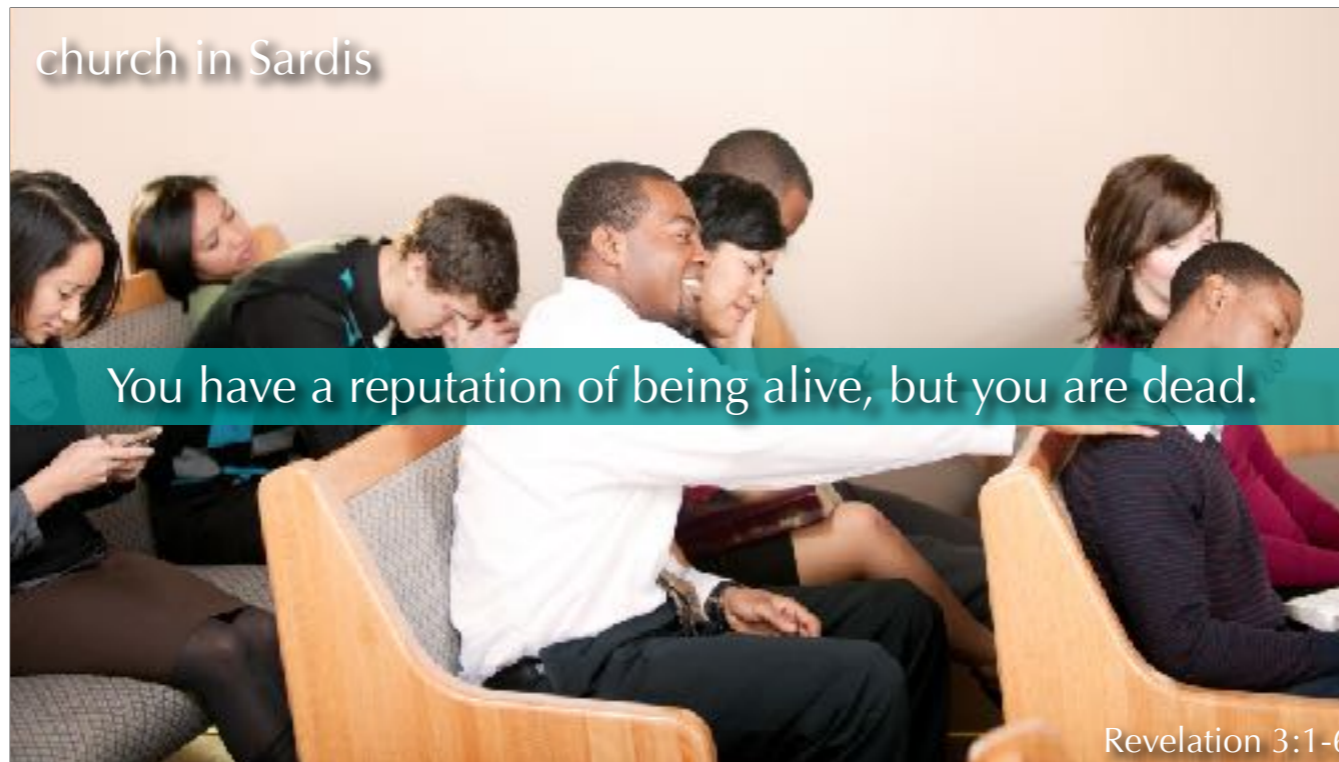
- Proverbs 12:11 (ESV)
- 11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,
- but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.



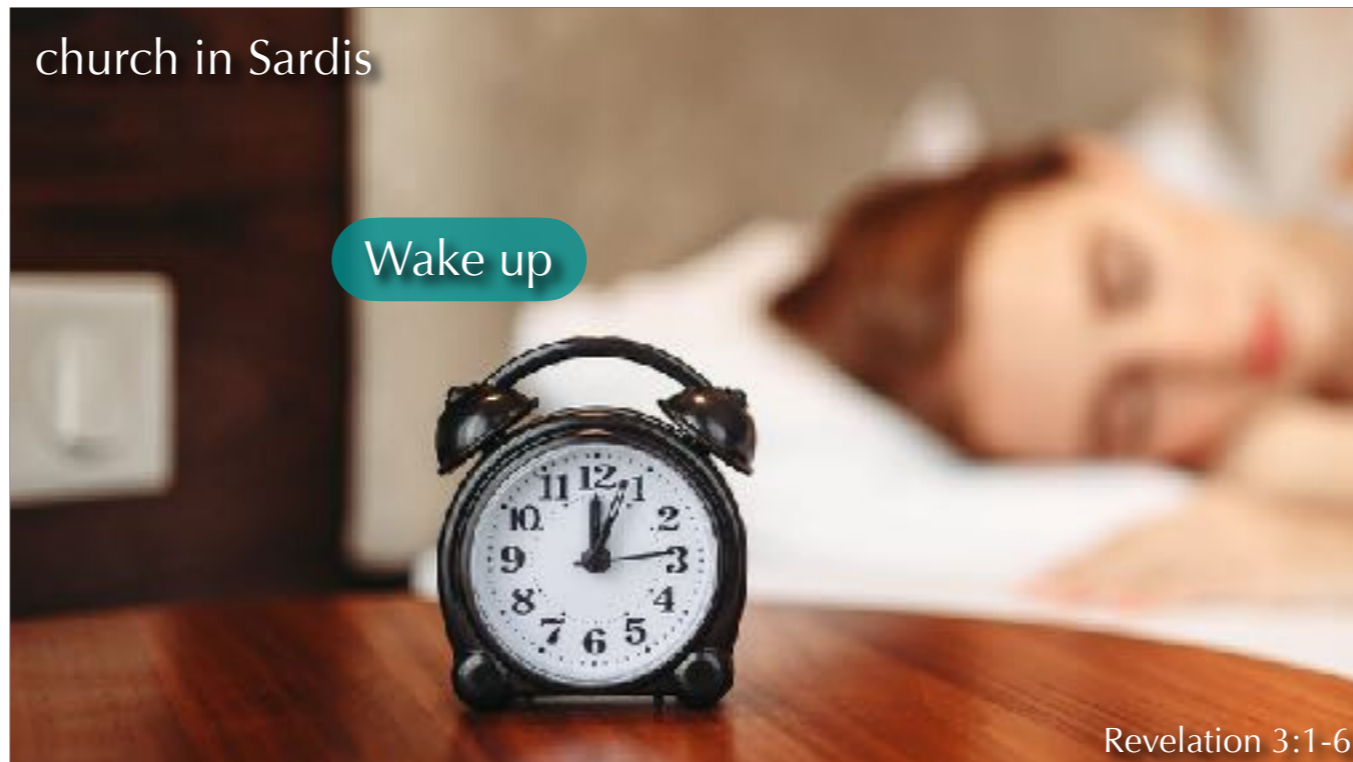
The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

Proverbs 20:4

- Proverbs 20:4 (ESV)
- 4 The sluggard does not plow in the autumn;
- he will seek at harvest and have nothing.



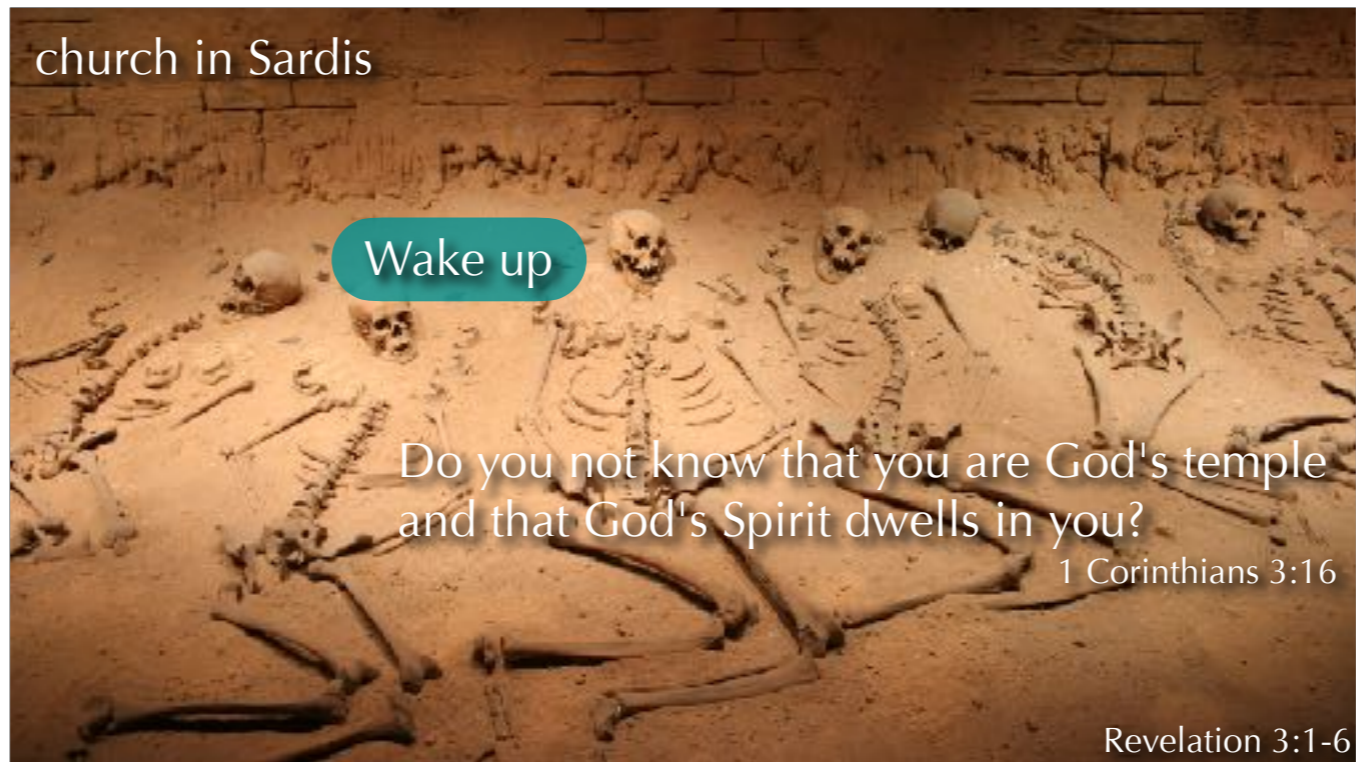
- More importantly, how would we look at ourselves and feel like we are alive?
 - Worship: but not all worship is acceptable to God (close temple doors!)
 - Righteousness: but sometimes we create our own righteousness (Jews)
 - Obedience? Faithfulness?
 - Service? Numbers? Growth?
- Sardis checked all their boxes
- And often so do we.



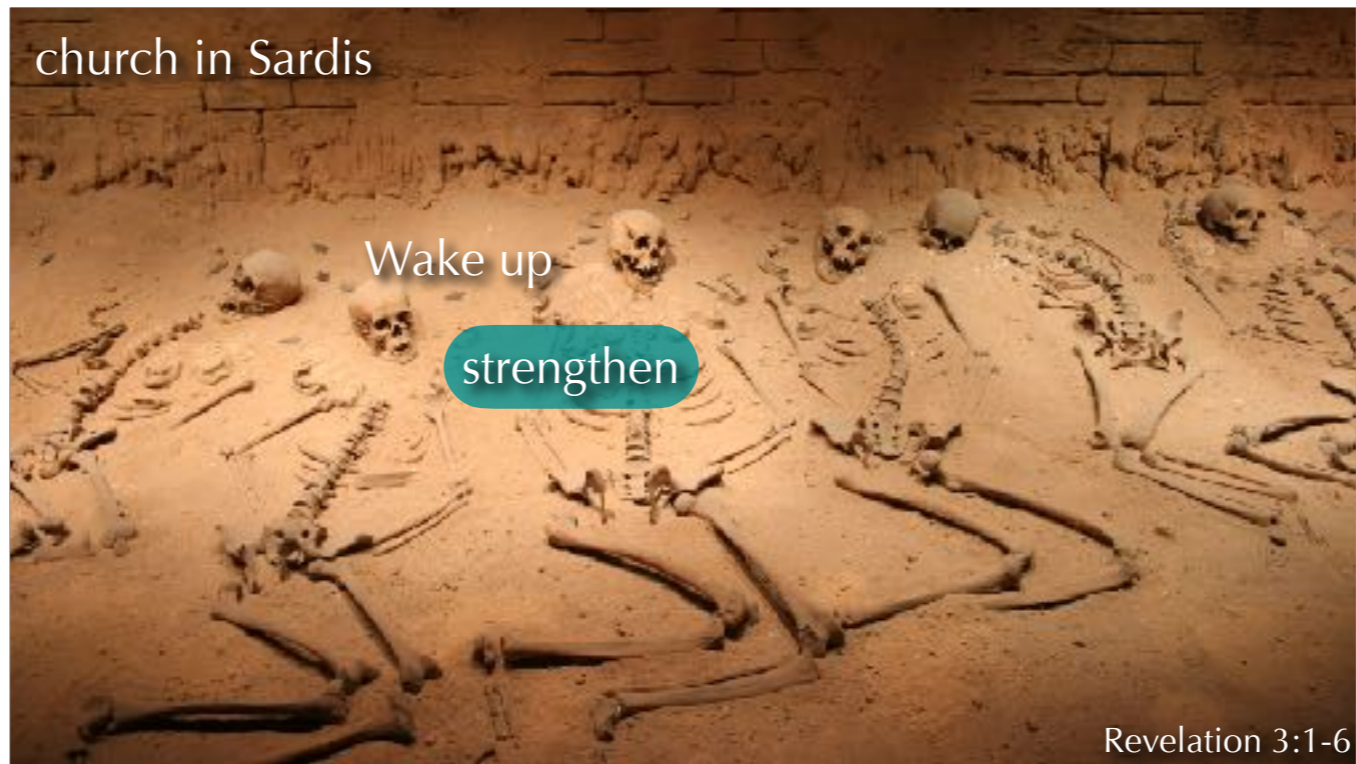
- 2 Wake up (not from sleep, but from being dead!)
 - Valley of bones: Ezekiel 37
 - Ezekiel 37:3 And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."
 - Ezekiel 37:4-6 (ESV) 4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."



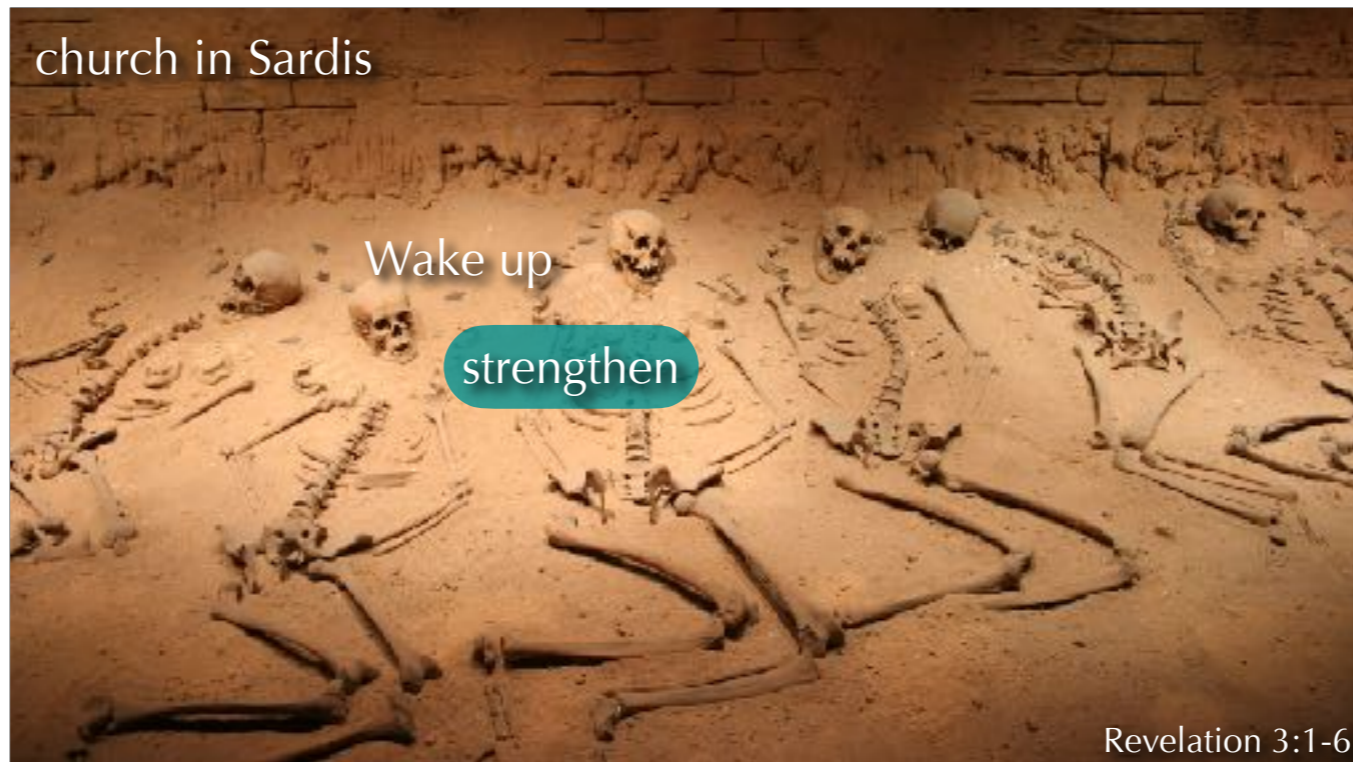
- Ezekiel 37:14 (ESV) 14 And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”



- For us to live, we need God's spirit with us!
 - 1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
 - Ephesians 2:21-22 (ESV) 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
 - (More to come on this ...)



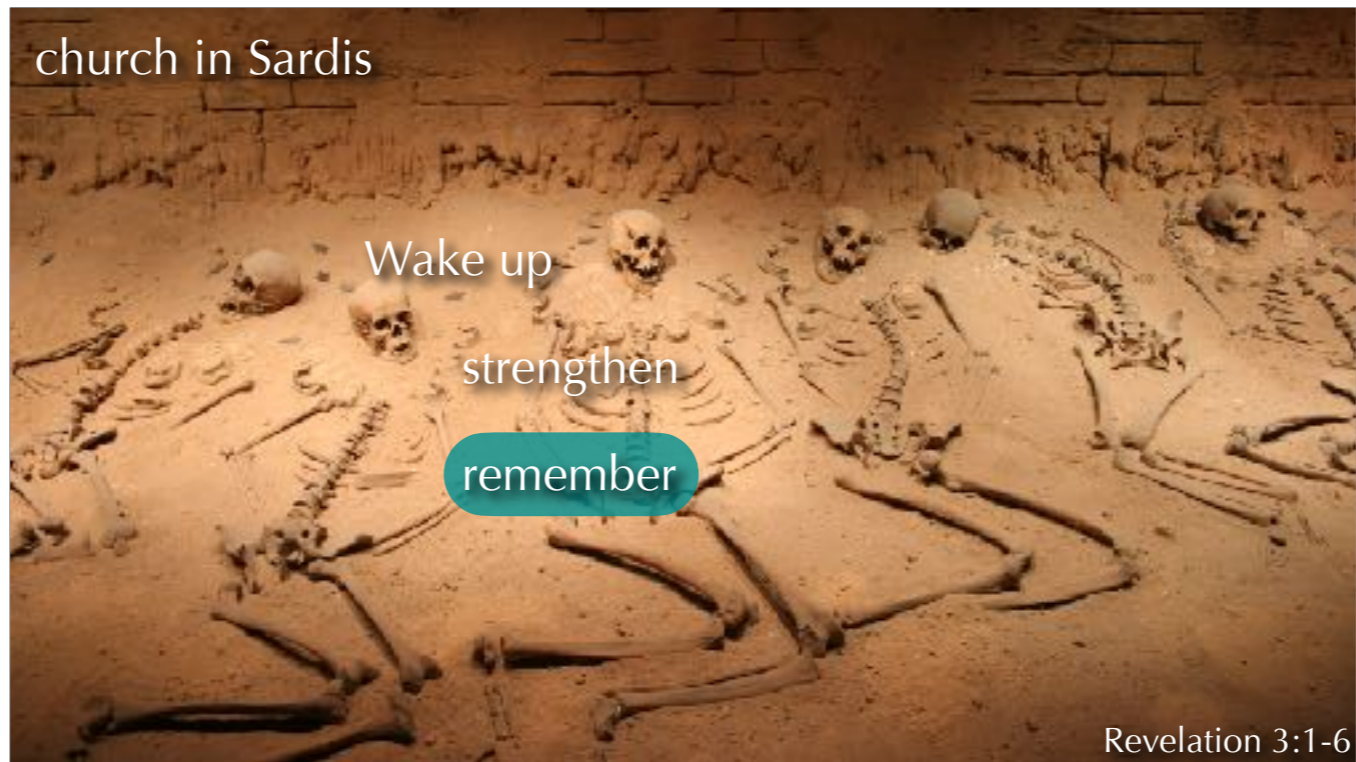
- and strengthen what remains and is about to die
 - There is good being done, there is work being accomplished
 - It's not all it should be
 - "for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God"
- What are we doing? And how can we do better at these things?
 - Worship
 - Classes



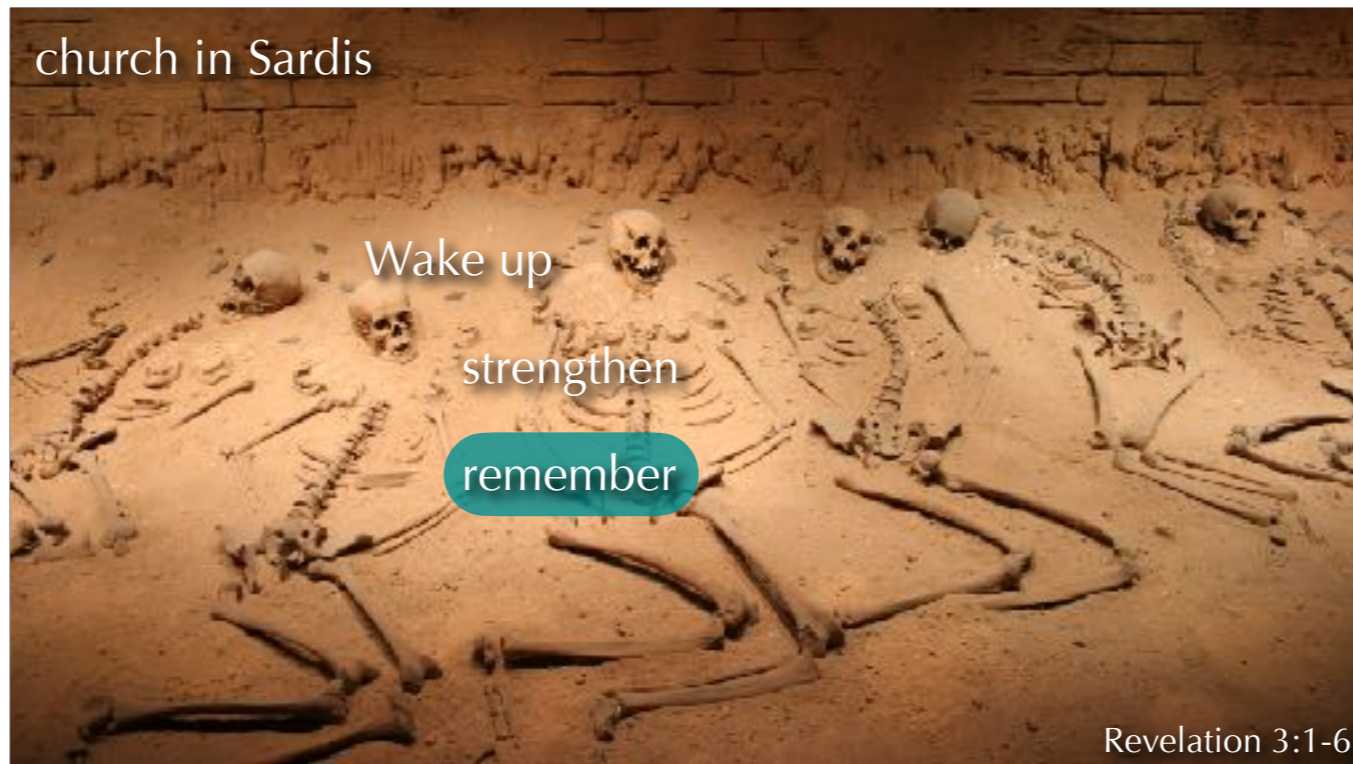
- It's not just about doing what we've always done and thinking that's good enough
 - How can our worship be more acceptable to God? more encouraging to one another?
 - How can our classes encourage us to study more, know more, grow in knowledge?
- What changes will strengthen us?
 - Wake up!



- 3 Remember, then, what you received and heard.
 - Strengthening and Reviving have necessary constraints
 - Not based on our traditions and customs, what we are used to, or what has worked in the past
 - 2 John 1:9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.



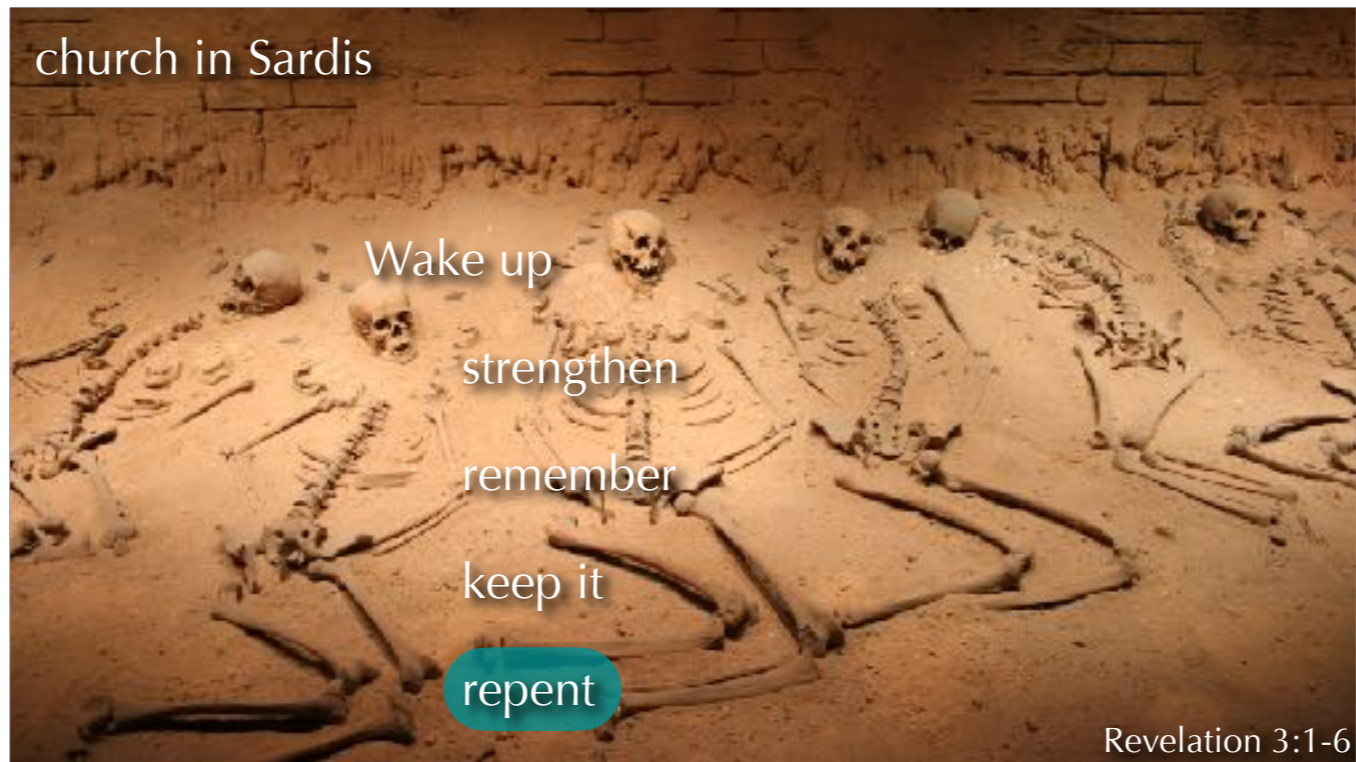
- But there is also encouragement to do ALL that we should be doing.
 - (sometimes in our desire to not go beyond, we don't go as far as we should)
 - He doesn't just keep us from wrong ... he encourages us to excel!
 - World Changers! Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)
 - 13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.



- 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- Wake UP!



- Keep it
 - “attend to carefully; take care of”
- Don’t just talk about it, don’t just plan it.
- More than just “do it”
 - Plan, Execute, Evaluate
 - business like
 - Nurture, Zeal, Steadfastness
 - We are the body of Christ
 - in the ER? ICU? Hospital?
 - Feed, strengthen, love, care,



- repent
 - change of mind
 - When things are not as they should be, change is vital
 - Dead to alive: big changes are needed
 - Starts with a desire to follow after God with all my heart
 - We need to choose to do better.
- If you will not wake up,
 - I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Ephesians 5:13-21

- Ephesians 5:13-21
 - But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light.
 - Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”
- Jesus Shines
 - Revelation 22:16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Will you stay dead?

Or will you wake up?

It's glorious to wake up.

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Wake Up

Revelation 3:1-6

Synopsis: Jesus warns the church in Sardis that they are dead and tells them to wake up. This waking is not waking from a sleep, but waking from the dead. To be alive they must strengthen, remember, keep and repent. Paul told the Ephesian brethren that they needed to wake from the dead also and that Christ would shine on them. True life in Christ is glorious. What will we choose? Will we stay dead, or will we wake up?

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”