



# Revelation

## Letters from the Throne

## Hollow Churches

Revelation 3:1-6

- Sardis - a strongly situated town, complacent in its security, a hotbed of pleasure seeking
- Church untroubled by false teaching or major error. All looks well but...

### 1. **Christ's Displeasure at hollow Christianity**

- No commendations from Christ for this church. Seriousness of the problem
- Problem (v1): all looks well, but the church is rotten inside.

#### a) **Are you wearing a mask?**

- People who claim to be Christians, look the part externally, but dead internally

#### b) **Are you sleeping?**

- v2 "Wake up" – Once there were signs of life, but seem to have gone to sleep
- Is your faith living and active or has it come into hibernation?
- Loss of appetite for God's word, lethargy for Christian activity

#### c) **Are you soiled?**

- v4 "soiled their clothes" – engaging in sinful behaviour. Lost their distinctiveness

### 2. **Christ's Remedy for hollow Christianity**

- 5 rapidfire commands to awaken sleepy Christians v2-3

#### a) **Wake up**

- Complacency - resting on our progress/reputation as individuals/congregation

#### b) **Get stronger**

- Take positive steps to strengthen your faith. Where are you weak?
- Look to Christ to give you his Holy Spirit (v1 'the seven spirits')

#### c) **Get cleaner**

- "Remember... obey, and repent" – Turn from sin, live out what you know.

### 3. **Christ's Encouragement to hollow Christians**

#### a) **Warning**

- Christ threatens to come unexpectedly in judgment on this church

#### b) **Encouragements**

- Those who fight to live for Christ will:
  - walk with Christ – a picture of Eden/Heaven
  - be dressed in white – a picture of final triumph over sin
  - be written indelibly in the book of life – a picture of ultimate security
  - be acknowledged by Christ without shame



# new life fellowship

S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sunday 8th January '12

### Notices

Sunday	Evening meeting at Mark & Judith's Book recommendations - bring some recommendations of books you have enjoyed recently. Come and hear what others recommend. No pressure.	8pm
Tuesday	Prayer time @ Robert & Judith's	8pm
Wed	Student Preaching in Limavady (Jonny McCollum & Paul Wright)	8pm
Sun 15th	Sunday School starting again. Thanksgiving Collection	

### Camp Reunions

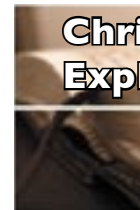
Camp reunion forms available for the young people - Reunions in Jan & Feb.

### Spring Conference

3-5th Feb Topic: Mission in the Footsteps of Jesus. Speaker: Rev John Nicholls, Chief Executive, London City Mission. Venue: Glenada Christian Conference Centre, Newcastle. *Application forms available*

### Castlewellan Holiday Conference

*Forms available for this summer holiday conference - must be in by Saturday 15th February*



## Christianity Explored

A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

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Oversight elders: William Lynch 048 7139 8002 Robert Tait 9101668 Colin Tait 9147352