Sardis Homework Questions:

**Sunday: Getting Started**

1. What stands out to you from the above and why?
2. Has God ever jolted you to help you wake up and see your sin? If so, share briefly.
3. How do you interpret the phrase "a thief in the night?"
4. What stood out to you from the Mark Dever article?
5. How do we know, from remembering the church at Smyrna, that suffering may not be connected with sin at all?

**Monday: Overview**

6. Read Revelation 3:1-6 aloud.

A. To whom is the letter addressed? (Rev. 3:1)

 B. How is Jesus described? Why might this description be appropriate to a sleeping church?

C. Are they commended for anything? Explain your answer.

D. For what are they rebuked?

E. How are they to respond to this rebuke?

F. Find both the warning and the promise.

G. Share anything that becomes "radioactive" to you and explain why.

7. In *Mystery Explained,*read the opening three paragraphs under "The Church at Sardis." (In kindle stop at 923 at the words "But to the remaining faithful believers...)

A. How were the city of Sardis and the church of Sardis alike?

B. How does the description of Jesus show what they are lacking?

C. Describe the two parts of repentance and give an illustration from your own life.

D. What does the phrase "have not soiled their garments" mean?

**Tuesday: I Will Come Like A Thief**

I see a parallel between the church in Sardis and the Jews who were living in ancient Persia in the time of Esther.  Though Mordecai had lived there a long time, no one even knew he was a Jew, for there was little difference between him and the people around him. There is quite a contrast, for example, between Modecai and Daniel. Everyone knew Daniel was a believer, for he had not been assimilated into the culture, even at the risk of his life.

8. What awakened Mordecai? (Esther 3:13) and how did he and the Jews respond? (Esther 4:1-3)

9. How does Esther respond in Esther 4:15-16? What elements do you see here that can lead to revival?

10. What is similar between Christ's greeting to Ephesus and now, to Sardis? How is the situation in Sardis more serious?

11.. G. K. Beale likens the people in the Church at Sardis to the Jews described in Revelation 2:9. What does Jesus say about them, and what does this mean?

Sometimes the phrase "nominal Christian" is used, meaning "in name only, not in reality."

12. Do the people in the world with whom you work or associate know you are a Christian? Do you think they have sensed love and integrity in you? Have you shared your faith winsomely with them? Explain.

 G. K. Beale and David Campbell write, concerning Sardis: *In order to carry out their call from the risen Lord to proclaim the gospel they need the Spirit's life-giving power...Their spiritual lethargy likely included not actively witnessing to their faith before the unbelieving culture.*

13. Guilt is not an effective motivator to get Christians to share their faith, but the power of the Spirit is. I know for me, seeing a life changed by God propels me to keep sharing. What helps you to share boldly?

14. What does the word picture "I will come like a thief, and you will not know what time I will come to you" conjure in your mind? Why would Jesus want to startle us so?

**Wednesday: I Will Never Blot His Name Out**

15. In the following verses, the same Greek word (onoma) is used and is translated, name, people, reputation. Find it and tell what you learn about it.

A. Rev. 2:17.

B. Rev. 3:1

C. Rev. 3:5 (used twice)

16. Read the rest of Dr. Campbell's comments about Sardis in *Mystery Explained*that begin with: "But to the remaining faithful believers" and answer:

A. What three promises are given to believers and what does each mean? (Take time with this.)

B. When were the names of believers recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life? What does this mean to you?

C.  What else stands out to you from Dr. Campbell's comments and why?

**Thursday/Friday  Sermon from Norman Funk (Optional but recommended)**

17. What stands out to you from the sermon by Norm Funk? (see the link in the intro)

18. Please also pray through the sheet with the link above from Trevin Wax for your church.

**Saturday:**

19. What is your take-a-way this week and why?