

## Revelation – Letters to Sardis and Laodicea



Tim continued our series on Revelation by looking at the letters to Sardis and Laodicea, in Revelation 3: 1-6 and 3:14-22.

Both churches had started 40+ years ago. Both churches considered themselves to be successful. But Jesus saw something different.

“You have the reputation of being alive, but are dead.” (Sardis)

“You say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked.” (Laodicea)

Tim noted that these were real warnings, to real churches. There was a real danger to them, not just as individuals but as whole churches. In effect, Jesus had left them, but in his mercy was still wanting to be part, still wanting to come into them (3:18-20). However far we have gone, he is still knocking, still giving us the opportunity to return.

Tim asked how they could have reached this state after a good start and noted that we too should not be complacent. He urged us in Gateway not to be satisfied with reputation, not to be comfortable in material wealth, and not to become settled in one place (now that we have St Mark's as a base).

### Questions

1. Consider the potential dangers that Tim highlighted for Gateway:
  - Good reputation
  - Comfortable in material wealth
  - Settled in one place.

How might these become dangers to us? How might we avoid these dangers?

2. Tim encouraged us to consider the first part of Gateway's vision statement.

“We exist to love Jesus and love people by knowing Him and making Him known”

How well are we doing on this? Is it still our priority? Are other things becoming more important?
3. Look again at Revelation 3:18-20.
  - If we feel we have missed our way, individually or together, how does this encourage us?
  - Perhaps you can make some space for people to respond to God, individually or together.