

# GREG'S NOTES

## A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

harvest.org

## HOW TO COME BACK TO LIFE SPIRITUALLY

### Revelation 3

Here in Revelation 3 is the story of a sick church, the church of Sardis. The problem was they didn't know they were a sick church. In fact, even worse than being sick, they were actually a dead church. We find what Jesus says about the problems that were developing. He also gives them the prescription for recovery. Chuck Swindoll wrote an excellent book on Revelation giving an outline on the marks of a dead church. I've borrowed from that outline below.

### PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **A dead church worships its past.** In a dead church, there are amazing stories of conversion, but they all happened 30 or 40 years ago. I am all for reflecting back on what God has done, but I refuse to live in the past. We need to be in the present. We need to always be planning for the future.
2. **A dead church is inflexible and resistant to change.** We should be inflexible on the essentials: the teaching of the Word of God, the worship and glorification of God, and evangelism—these are some of the essentials. We are not going to back down on them. But we need to be flexible with nonessentials. By that, I mean style. People get hung up with styles of music, embracing new technology, and things like that. We need to use those things that will help us reach people with the gospel.
3. **A dead church has lazy leadership.** A complacency and lethargy sets in. A dead church is in spiritual cruise control. They don't want to change anything. You know what? I think that periodically things need to be blown up. Some say, "We have always done it this way. We can't change it." No. You can change it. In fact, you need to change it because it is not working anymore.

### RELEVANT REMINDERS

Jesus gives us a prescription for spiritual renewal:

- The church needs to wake up, recognizing that something is seriously wrong.
- The church must strengthen the things that remain—meaning stabilize that which is frail by staying with Jesus. Don't give up!
- The church must be watching for the return of Jesus Christ.

# GREG'S NOTES

## A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES



harvest.org

### APPLICABLE ACTIONS

The church is here for the glorification of God. We are created to bring pleasure to Him and to bring glory to His name. The church is also here for the edification of the saints. We go to church to hear the Word of God and encourage and build up one another. And the church is here for the evangelization of the world. We glorify God, we are built up in the church, and now we go out and fulfill the Great Commission.