



5

Vigilant Against
Complacency

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WHEN
HAVE YOU
NEEDED
EXTRA
REMINDERS?

The
POINT >

Stay alert and focused on the things of God.

> 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. ²Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. ³Remember, 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. ⁴Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.

⁵The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white

garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

The human brain has about one billion neurons, and each neuron has the potential to create 1000 connections to other neurons.¹ So the next time you can't remember an answer on your literature exam, there's really no excuse!



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

All people have sinned, and have been separated from God, but we can be restored to a relationship with Him when we trust in Jesus and turn from our sin.

Children need a lot of reminders. Okay, let's be honest—we all need a lot of reminders. It's often easy to be distracted by talking with friends, scrolling through social media, or binging TV series, and we have to be reminded to do our homework, feed the cat, or take out the trash. We get distracted from what we should be doing, and then another distraction comes along and distracts us further. In order to focus, we need constant reminders.

A lot of things deserve our focus: family and friends, school work and extracurriculars, our jobs, health, and church activities. But even when we're focusing on these good things, we still need continual reminders for what is most important.

The church in Sardis had a good reputation, but they had become distracted from what was most important and had grown complacent. Jesus reminded them to focus on what matters.

REVELATION 3:1-2

1 What does spiritual complacency look like?

2 List some ways the church may be suffering from complacency today.



REVELATION 3:3

3 What are some consequences of not being spiritually alert?

4 How does Jesus' promised return motivate us to stay alert?

5 How can we keep our focus on Jesus every day?

REVELATION 3:4-6

6 How can our churches be like the church at Sardis?

7 What things can distract us from focusing on God?

8 What makes Jesus' message to the church at Sardis especially relevant to Christians today?



*We must choose to live in ways that clearly demonstrate whole-hearted commitment to Jesus.
#BSFLtheChurch*



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

All people have sinned, and have been separated from God, but we can be restored to a relationship with Him when we trust in Jesus and turn from our sin.

Jesus said to the church at Thyatira that even though they appeared to be alive, they were in fact dead. Because of sin, we are all spiritually dead apart from our receiving new life in Christ. This new life is a gift from God given to those who repent of sin, and in turn, wholeheartedly pursue Jesus in faith and obedience.

> CHRIST

Jesus told the church to remember and repent. They were to remember the things they had heard, specifically, the gospel. And they were to repent, which means specifically to turn around—to turn from sin and turn to Jesus.

9 How do you sometimes “forget” to live out the things God has called you to?

10 What in your life is God calling you to turn away from?

Commit to turning to Jesus. Choose every day to follow Him.

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD



➤ COMMUNITY

God never meant for the Christian life to be lived alone. Partner with a Christian friend to help each other stay faithful and focused on Christ.

11 Connect every day in person, with a phone call, or through a text or social media message to continually remind your friend of his or her commitment to following Jesus.

➤ CULTURE

Our culture claims to know what it means to be alive, but the world's values actually lead to death.

12 What does the world claim leads to a meaningful and happy life?

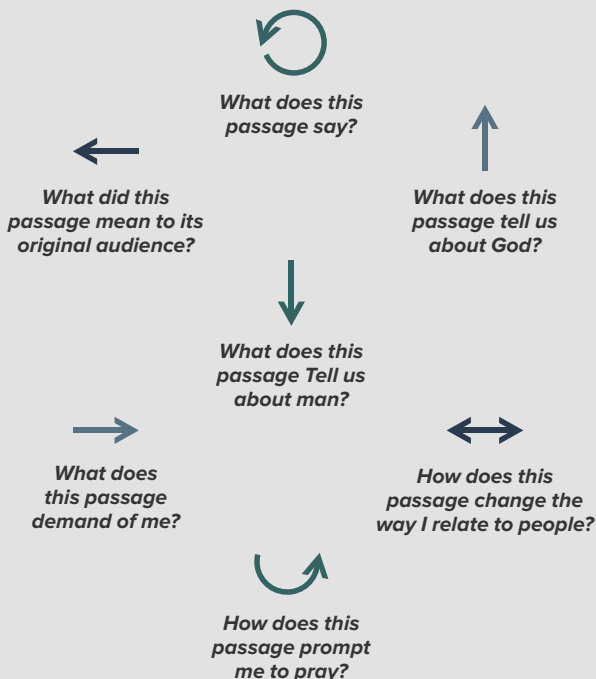
13 What does the Bible have to say about these?

This week, share with a non-believing friend about the true life that is found only in Jesus.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One EPHESIANS 5:15

When the Bible speaks of the ways we walk, it's referring to the ways we live from day to day. Here, Paul tells the church to be very careful about the ways we live. We go through our routine with little thought, as much from habit as from intentional choices. Though habits can be helpful—particularly habits such as prayer, studying the Bible, going to church, and so on—even the best habits can never be an excuse for thinking critically about the ways we live. Wisdom, which leads to blessing, is a sharp contrast against foolishness, which leads to destruction. To fail to pay attention to the steps we take and the ways we live is foolishness, and it will lead to bad things. However, when we are alert and aware, paying careful attention to follow Jesus in the ways we live, we will experience the good things God desires for His children.

- **What are some good habits you have in your life? Bad habits?**
- **How could you improve in being more alert and aware of the ways you live?**

Day Two

EPHESIANS 5:16



Some days might seem to drag on and on. However, our time on this earth is very short, and we are called to use our time for a very specific purpose—fulfilling God’s purposes and bringing glory to Him. It can be easy to put off until tomorrow the most important things. After all, sometimes playing video games or scrolling through our social media feeds is easier than working on a tough relationship or sharing the gospel with a lost friend. But if we’re not careful, tomorrow turns into next week, which turns into next year, and we never make it a point to do the important things. For Christians, we must live with urgency, taking advantage of every opportunity God gives to follow through on the things we’re called to do.

➤ **When are you tempted to procrastinate?**

➤ **Why is it important to make the most of every day?**

Day Three

EPHESIANS 5:17

Some people say, “If only I knew what God’s will is for my life, I would follow it.” We might like for God to tell us who to date, where to go to college, or how to deal with parents when it gets difficult. Though the Bible doesn’t give us these exact details, it is very clear about other things—we are to pray continually, devote ourselves to knowing God’s Word, live in fellowship with other believers, share the gospel with the lost, share generously and sacrificially, honor the authorities in our lives, and more. If we aren’t willing to follow the things God has made very clear, then perhaps we shouldn’t expect God to reveal His wisdom in areas He hasn’t specifically addressed. However, when we devote ourselves to faithfully following God’s clearly communicated commands, He will help us to understand how godly wisdom applies in other areas of our lives.

➤ **What has God clearly revealed that you struggle to follow?**

➤ **What is an issue in your life for which you need God’s wisdom? Talk to a leader about this.**

Day Four

EPHESIANS 5:18-19

The Bible teaches very clearly that we're not to be drunk on wine. Being drunk relates to the things that control us. If we drink too much, we're surrendering control of our thinking and choices to alcohol, which leads to foolishness and destructive behaviors. It is also possible to be controlled by lust, greed, or other unhealthy desires. Instead, we are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, which always leads to wise living. When we are led by the Spirit, we live in ways that build others up, bring blessings upon our own lives, and bring glory to God.

- **How would you describe the biblical meaning of "drunk"?**
- **Why is it so important that we are controlled by the Spirit instead of by worldly desires?**

Day Five

EPHESIANS 5:20-21



The world tempts us never to be satisfied with what God has provided, but continually to desire more, more, more. This kind of discontentment is terribly offensive to God, who is generous and who provides everything we need. We may not have all the things we want, but if we are saved, we have Jesus. He is more than enough, and for this we should be incredibly grateful. When we complain about all the things we don't have, we are like spoiled little children. Instead, we should be continually aware of all the ways God is generous, expressing gratitude. When we do, we stand out in a world of people who are dissatisfied and discontent, and as others notice, we can point them to God.

- **How has God been generous and kind to you?**
- **How do you need to grow in expressing gratitude to God?**