

# Losing My Religion: Religion Puts You to Sleep

TAKE TO HEART WHAT IS WRITTEN... BECAUSE THE TIME IS NEAR. — REV 1:3

Week 6

ILL: HEARD THE FIRST HALF OF A LOT OF SERMONS / SAME GUY WITH BEDTIME STORIES

1: SICK IN THE BALCONY / 2. LEANING BACK

Religion puts people to **s l e e p**.

BORING? / LULL INTO RELIGIOUS HYPNOSIS / TODAY...

## REVIEW

1. Religion relies on rituals and doctrines but Christianity is the reality of a Creator building relationship with his creation.
2. We don't have time for religious games because our King is coming soon!
3. Religion is heartless, but following Jesus means loving God and others.
4. Religion is easy, but following Jesus takes tough endurance.
5. Religion is deceptive, but following Jesus means faithfulness to the truth.
6. Religion is power, but Jesus has all authority.

not a license to reject ritual or sound doctrine

## The Church in Sardis (Rev 3:1-6)

- Jesus: I know your deeds **[ blank ]**.
- Jesus: You have a reputation of being **alive**, but you're **dead**.  
REPUTATION IS NO INDICATION OF REALITY • PARIS HILTON SYNDROME • NOSTALGIA

## FACTS ABOUT SARDIS

- First to dye fabric & first to mint gold and silver **coins** (rich).
- Conquered **twice** in the same way (overconfident).
- Built elaborate temple to Artemis, but never **finished** it (lazy).

## WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH?

- Their reputation was either **pretend** or **past**.
- Whatever good they did have was in **danger**.
- Their deeds were **incomplete**.  
JUST LIKE THE CITY / WAKE UP! / NOTHING SPECIFICALLY BAD OR GOOD

The church was **sleepwalking!**

~ POPEYE VIDEO CLIP ~

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men."*

Matthew 5:13

## How to Tell if You're Sleepwalking

### 1. THE **P i n c h** TEST

Something that should hurt doesn't. • THE CONDITION OF THE LOST

### 2. THE **T a s t e** TEST

eating my pillow for pancakes • something that should have flavor doesn't • worship

### 3. THE **C l a r i t y** TEST

I can't read in my dreams • something that should make sense doesn't • Bible Study

### 4. THE **R e a l i t y** TEST

ILL: a worm bit me • something's happening that doesn't follow from the Bible

### 5. THE **I n t e g r i t y** TEST

ILL: I couldn't ever fly... unless, I went low and slow • tweaking something to pretend like it's working • EVERYTHING MUST LINE UP TOGETHER • FEELINGS, THOUGHTS, DESIRES, RELATIONSHIPS, AND BEHAVIORS

If you wake up, you'll **w a l k** with **J e s u s**.

enjoy his company • do his work • live forever with him  
SELL THE COMING SERVICE PROJECTS

## Conclusion:

### (How to Stay Awake in Church)

loud music • strong coffee • crayons

"Strengthen what remains."

Dig down through the religious cruft,

**find life** and **live** it!

OUR FOCUS ON FOUR SIMPLE CORE VALUES KEEPS THE CRUFT AT BAY

"Remember what you received and heard."

God **L o v e s** You • Jesus **F o r g i v e s**

The Word is **T r u t h** • We have the **S p i r i t**