

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PARENTING CLASS

Wednesdays

Grace Based Parenting is not another manual full of impossible standards; rather it is a new map for learning to see ourselves and our children through God's limitless tenderness - to raise our kids the way God raises us. Email ekids@ourelement.org for more. Cost is \$15 for the booklet.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms: April 19th at 1pm

Signup today if you'd like to get baptized. There will be a short **Informational Meeting TODAY at 11am & 12:30pm.**

eKids! Child & Parent Class:
March 15th at 12:30pm.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

March 14th at 8:15am

All men are invited to attend our men's breakfast here at Element.

We will have a short time of teaching, eating, getting to know Element's philosophy of ministry and of course, BACON!

WOMEN'S REDEEMED LIVES

March 28th, 11a-2p

Come hear two of our very own share their stories of God's Redemption in their lives.

Childcare is provided, but you must sign up.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate you can visit www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

CHURCHES
OF

REVELATION

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ephesians 5:14
Revelation 3:1-6

MY NOTES:



05. SARDIS

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THE COMPLACENT SLEEPING BEAUTY

CHURCHES OF REVELATION

*“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”*

Ephesians 5:14

At Element we are taking a look at the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation. We have called this a LENT journey (but “Lent” only lasts 6 weeks). We are doing this over 10 weeks until RESURRECTION, which is Easter. As we go through this series, we are looking at who Jesus calls us to be, which in turn shows us how we fall short. The good news is that Jesus does not stop at a simple rebuke, we also get to look at the way He redeems our enslaved and broken lives. This exploration is supposed to build tension that releases in an explosion of joy at Easter when we understand our new lives found in Him.

This week we looked at the church in Sardis. We learned that Sardis was wildly successful; they were innovative and had great wealth. However, the people in Sardis were over-confident in their city and held the belief that they could never be conquered. History tells us the city was conquered twice by surprise because the city had “fallen asleep.”

Read Revelation 3:1-6

Have you fallen asleep spiritually? What does that mean?

Jesus wants us to WAKE UP. He does not want us to become compliant or complacent, He wants us to live on mission. He doesn't want us to believe that when sin enters our life, or when we get lazy and focus on ourselves, that it is not a big deal. In order to be spiritually awake our lives should have these components:

- Jesus' death becomes more real than our sins,
- Jesus' resurrection becomes more real than our comfort,
- Jesus' love for us becomes more real than our failures.

If we are in a place where we cannot feel confident, forgiven, or if we don't have a boldness of a clean conscience, it's because we have fallen asleep.

How do we as a people wake up?

To wake up means we use every means at our disposal to live on His mission. Not only prayer, not only Bible study, not only Gospel centered community, and attendance at worship services, it is also humbly seeking God and saying, “Wake me up.” We do this so that His wisdom becomes more real than our wisdom. We begin to get over ourselves because His death and love for us become more real than our failures.

Is there something in your life that you minimize, but in reality it is hurting your relationship with Jesus and others?

What is more real to you than Jesus?

Do you find yourself caring more about the outside of your life or the inside?

Where have you given up because it is too hard?

Where do you find it easier to sleep through God's call than to answer it?

Every church that Jesus rebuke's in Revelation does not end with the rebuke; but the opportunity for Repentance.

Where have you “soiled” your life or soul?

What is your understanding of true repentance?

Repentance is not something that brings guilt or shame, it is a continual process, a constant refocus on who God is. Jesus says, “Go back to what I first gave you, what you first received, and repent,” and then what will happen? “You'll walk in white robes.” “I'll give you a crown.” “I am trustworthy and I will never blot your name out.”

True repentance does not make you feel depressed. True repentance refocuses our lives on the living, reigning, ruling, ascended Jesus. Repentance is not simply remorse, it is total and complete life change.

Where do you need to repent and walk in white?