Sermon: Strengthen What Remains. Scripture: Revelation 3:1-6.

Series: *N/A.* **Date:** May 26, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) The church of Sardis was relying on their reputation. What is the danger in this for the church at large? What about for you personally? Has your reputation ever competed with the gospel for control of your heart?
- b) Jesus tells the church of Sardis to "Wake up, and strengthen what remains." Do you think Jesus would say something similar to you and this church? If not this, what might he say instead?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Where can you see the entire Trinity in this passage? What is each member of the Trinity doing in regards to the church at Sardis (and really all churches)? Do you think that the Trinity is still doing these things?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Look at verse 5. How does this verse describe Christ alone? How does it also describe we who are in Christ?

APPLICATION

- a) In verse 3, Jesus' tells the church to "remember what they received and heard." This is, of course, the gospel. Why is this the most important thing a church can do? How can we as a church continue to "remember the gospel?" How can we as a group "remember the gospel" each week?
- b) Spend some time as a group praying for church planters, especially the Omisanmis, as they begin their work in Baltimore.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his ongoing salvation work in and through the church.
- Confess ways that you have relied on your reputation over the gospel.
- Thank Jesus for his conquering endurance in our place.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to strengthen what remains in his holy church.