



# CHURCH

## *Life*

Assess,  
Listen and  
Live





# Jesus' Message to the Church at Sardis

Revelation 3:1-6

**Rev. 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars,"**





# Byzantine church & temple of Artemis in Sardis lower city

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# The Fortified Sardis Acropolis



# In relation to Sardis, Christ is described as **“He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars,” Rev. 3:1b**

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What is meant by the seven Spirits of God? Rev. 1:4

Who or what are the seven stars?

Rev. 1:20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: **the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches**, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

# Rev. 3:1b: “...I know your deeds...”

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Psalm 139:1-4 “O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.”



# Rev 3:1b “...that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”

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When you see the word dead or death in Scripture, think of separation.

- In physical death, one's spirit is separated from the body.
- In spiritual death, one's spirit is separated from God because of sin. Isa 59:1,2
- In eternal death, one's spirit is separated from God for all eternity in hell. 2Thess. 1:8,9





# 3 M's seen in church history:

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## I) *Man*:

John Wycliff (1324AD),

John Huss (1400 AD)

Martin Luther (1517 AD)

John Calvin (1530 AD)



# 3 M's seen in church history:

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1) *Man*

2) *Movement*: What starts with a Spirit-filled man spreads to others resulting in a growing movement.

3) *Monument*: Without the Spirit's filling and empowerment, the movement eventually either fails or becomes a monument and is memorialized.

It seems the church at Sardis was at the Monument stage





# **Rev. 3:2a “Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die...”**

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In what ways might we need to wake up or be watchful spiritually?

What are some things that may need to be strengthened?

- Belief in the truth and sufficiency of God's Word.
- Faith, love and dependence in Christ alone.
- Walking in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah 4:6b “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.”



## 3:2b “for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.”

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James Allen sees an analogy for the church from the history of invasions of Sardis: “Incomplete fortifications are not of any real value to a besieged city, neither do fortifications without a watchful sentry constitute a complete defense. The history of the city was proof of this.”





# **Vs 3a “Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent.”**

What did they receive and hear?

The truth of God's Word

Keep it or “hold fast” (NKJV)

1 Thess 5:21 “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good”

Repent, meaning a change of mind that results in a change in direction.



**Vs 3b “Therefore if you will not wake up, I will come like a thief and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.”**

\* Why would Christ come to the church of Sardis like a thief?  
Normally the figure or metaphor of Christ coming like a “thief” applies to unbelievers.





**Vs 3b “Therefore if you will not wake up, I will come like a thief and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.”**

I Thes. 5:2-5 “For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day.”



\* Why this warning of Christ coming **like a thief** to a church?

\* What was Christ's criticism of this church in vs 1?

They had a name as those who are alive, but in Christ's eyes this church was spiritually dead.

Matt. 7:21-23: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"



**Vs 4 “But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy.”**

\* Who are these few people? A faithful remnant who:

- Had not soiled their garments
- Will walk with Christ in white
- Who are worthy



**Vs 5 “He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.”**

**\* What is Christ’s promise to overcomers?**

**1) They shall “be clothed in white garments”**

**2) Christ will not erase his name from the book of life,**

**\* What is the book of life?**

**\* Is your name in the book of life?**

**If so, your name will not be erased!**



Some verses that declare the eternal security of the believer:

- John 3:16
- John 10:27-29
- Ephesians 1:13,14
- 1 John 5:11-13

3) Rev 5b **“and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.”**

Matt. 10:32 "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.”



## **Vs 6 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”** Some applications:

- Do we have open ears to hear what He is saying to each of us?
- Can we discern the difference between outward appearance and inward spiritual reality?
- Am I relying on an outward reputation rather than the inward reality of a living faith relationship with Christ?
- How is my reputation with my family? Co-workers? Neighbors? Fellow believers?
- Do I need to wake up and strengthen the things that remain?
- Are there deeds not yet completed in the sight of God?

