

# Christ The Rock Church

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

# Revelation

## Chapter 3:1-6

### The Church at Sardis

## Revelation 3:1-6

“To the angel of the church in **Sardis** write: He who has **the seven spirits** of God and **the seven stars**, says this: ‘I **know your deeds**, that you have a name that you are **alive**, and *yet* you are **dead**.

## Revelation 3:1-6

2 **Wake up**, and strengthen the things that **remain**, which were **about to die**; for I have not found your deeds **completed** in the sight of My God.

## Revelation 3:1-6

3 So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore, if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

## Revelation 3:1-6

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.

## Revelation 3:1-6

5 The one who **overcomes** will be clothed the same way, 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.

Revelation 3:1-6

6 He who has an ear  
let him hear what  
the Spirit says to the  
churches.

What's in a  
Name . . .

The Church



## The Church

*Ecclesia*: “assembly”, called out ones’

*Eph. 2:22* - in whom you also are  
being built together into  
a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

What's the  
Purpose of . . .

The Church



## The “Called Out Ones”

Not a social club

Not a self-help group

For the equipping of saints

Encourage & strengthen one another

1 Timothy 3:15

*I write* so that you will know  
how one ought to *conduct himself*  
in the household of God, which is  
*the church* of the living God, the pillar  
and support of *the truth*.

# Support of the Truth

*Jesus is the truth (John 1:14, 17; 14:6)*

*God's **Word** is truth (John 17:17)*

*Gospel of Truth (Gal. 2:5, 14; Eph. 1:13)*

What's in a  
Name . . .

Sardis



Sardis . . .

Meaning Lost to History

Name doesn't fit  
(Alive but Dead)

Not Erase Your Name

Confess Your Name



## So Far . . .

**Ephesus:** good on doctrine, good on works BUT lost their “first love”, city was a great political center

**Smyrna:** 'myrrh' (death) – The suffering church is closest to Jesus, city was a great commercial center

**Pergamum:** Satan's Throne, city was a great religious center

**Thyatira:** Tolerated Jezebel – false doctrine and worldliness, Satan infiltrated from within

**Sardis:** Thought they were alive but are dead – only a faithful remnant.

No Satanic attacks because they made no difference against Satan's kingdom

# Seven Letters - Structure

1. Name of the church
2. Title Jesus Uses
3. Commendation – what’s good
4. Concern – what’s bad
5. Exhortation – what to do
6. Promise to the Overcomer - unique
7. “He that hath an ear, let him hear”

# Four Levels of Application

1. Local: Actual churches in John's day with  
The actual problems described
2. Universal (correction): “to the churches”
3. Personal (homiletic): 'he that hath an ear”
4. Prophetic: lays out church history

## Prophetic History

- 1) Ephesus: Apostolic Church (AD 33-100)
- 2) Smyrna: Persecuted Church (AD 100-313)
- 3) Pergamos: Mixed Marriage (AD 313-590)
- 4) Thyatira: Continual Sacrifice (AD 590-1517)
- 5) Sardis: Reformation Church (AD 1517-1700)

## Prophetic History

- 1) Ephesus: - **Eph 2:20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
- 2) Smyrna: If you can't beat em', kill em'
- 3) Pergamos: Become like the world to win it
- 4) Thyatira: work your way into the kingdom
- 5) Sardis: past glory, programs, no life



# TURKEY

- PERGAMOS
- THYATIRE
- SARDIS
- PHILADELPHIA
- SMYRNA
- EPHESUS
- LAODICEA

- Edirne
- Istanbul
- Gebze
- Kocaeli (İzmit)
- Ereğli
- Sakarya (Adapazarı)
- Bursa
- Çanakkale
- Samsun
- Çorum
- Sivas
- Kayseri
- Konya
- Kahramanmaraş
- Adana
- İçel (Mersin)
- Ceyhan
- Gaziantep
- Malatya
- Elazığ
- Şanlıurfa
- Antioch
- İskenderun
- Antalya

# The Seven Churches of Revelation



## Revelation 3:1-6

“To the angel of the church in **Sardis** write: He who has **the seven spirits** of God and **the seven stars**, says this: ‘I **know your deeds**, that you have a name that you are **alive**, and *yet* you are **dead**.

## Sardis: The Name

Lost it's original meaning  
(a name but you are dead) (vs. 1, 5)

Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum's  
scholarship which supports the  
meaning as "escaping."

## Sardis: The City

First city in the world to mint coins  
under King Alyattes (635-585 B.C.)

Ruled by King Croesus (King Midas)

River of gold (Pactolus) – Mt. Mount Tmolus

Streets of Sardis covered in gold dust

Cyrus took 600,000,000 in gold

## Sardis: The City

Capital of Lydia

50 Miles East Ephesus

Junction of 5 main roads

Military Center

Top of inaccessible plateau

## Sardis: The City

“Nature Cults”: death & rebirth

Main Temple: Artemis (Diana)

Acropolis 1500 feet above main roads

Manufacture woolen garments (vs.  
robes of white)

## “Wake Up”

City only conquered twice

(Cyrus the Great – 547 B.C.)

(Alexander the Great – 334 B.C.)

Guard were asleep/complacent

# Jesus Title of Himself

He who has the seven spirits of God  
and the seven stars

**Isaiah 11:2** – “and the Spirit of **the LORD** shall rest upon him, the Spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the Spirit of **counsel** and **might**, the Spirit of **knowledge** and the **fear of the LORD**.”

# Jesus Title of Himself

He who has the seven spirits of God  
and the seven stars

**Zechariah 3:9; 4:10** -- For behold, the stone that I have put before Joshua; on one stone are **seven eyes** ... — they are the eyes of the Lord roaming throughout the earth.”

# Jesus Title of Himself

He who has the seven spirits of God  
and the seven stars

**Zechariah 3:9; 4:10** -- For behold, the stone that I have put before Joshua; on one stone are **seven eyes** ... — they are the eyes of the Lord roaming throughout the earth.”

# Jesus Title of Himself

He who has the seven spirits of God  
and the seven stars

**Revelation 4:5** – Out from the throne came flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were seven lamps of fire* burning before the throne, which are the *seven spirits of God*;

# Jesus Title of Himself

He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars

**Revelation 5:6** -- And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, **which are the seven spirits of God** sent out into all the earth.

# Jesus Title of Himself

He who has the seven spirits of God  
and the seven stars

The number “7” represents fulness or completeness. Jesus is here represented as the omniscient-one. There is also, however, the contrast between life and death. Jesus is addressing a dead church yet He is The One who grants spiritual life thru His Holy Spirit, the Seven-fold Spirit of God. The flesh profits nothing, it is the Spirit which gives life (John 6:63).

# Jesus Title of Himself

He who has the seven spirits of God  
and the seven stars

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity – co-equal God with Father and Son...so in what sense does Jesus 'have' the Holy Spirit. He is sent by Jesus as a love gift to those who will inherit salvation.

# Jesus Title of Himself

He who has the seven spirits of God  
and the seven stars

John 14:16-17 (15:26; 16:7) – But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

# Jesus Title of Himself

He who has the seven spirits of God  
and the seven stars

The Father sent the Son

The Son sent The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit sent the Word

# Jesus Title of Himself

He who has the seven spirits of God  
and the seven stars

Seven stars are the seven messengers

Revelation 3:1

*‘I know your deeds . . .*

Jesus is the Chief-Shepherd

Walks among the lampstands

Will present a pure Bride

## Sardis

No doctrinal **error**, but,

No word of **commendation**.

No **persecution** or opposition.

**Grown comfortable & content.**

# Sardis

No aggressive witness.

No persecution = no influence

## Revelation

The unsaved in Sardis saw the church as “respectable people” – neither **dangerous** nor **desirable**.  
Just another civic or social group  
but no supernatural power.

## Sardis

They were a clique of  
“good people” with a

Dying witness and decaying  
ministry (Weirsbe)

Revelation 3:1-6

**2** **Wake up**, and strengthen the things that **remain**, which were **about to die**; for I have not found your deeds **completed** in the sight of My God.

## Sardis

“Wake Up!”

The watchmen were asleep.

Last week: **Jezebel**

This week: **Complacency**

## Sardis

“watch!”

**Satan's Schemes:** 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Cor. 2:11 – so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are **not ignorant** of his schemes.

## Sardis

“watch & pray!”

**Matt. 26:41** – Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

(if any man lacks wisdom – ask God)

“I have not found your deeds completed”

## Deeds that are never complete

1. Growing in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)
2. Our ambassadorship (2 Cor. 5:20)
3. Exercising the 'Keys to the Kingdom'  
(Matt. 16:19; Rev. 1:18)

## Sardis

“I have not found your deeds completed”

**Eph 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for** good works, which **God prepared** beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Spiritual gifts, calling, Spirit-filling

## Revelation 3:1-6

3 So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore, if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

# Sardis

**Ephesus:** remove lampstand

**Pergamos:** make war w/ sword

**Sardis:** come as thief

## Like a Thief

Jesus already said (Mat 24:43; Luk 12:39)

Paul had said (1Th 5:2)

Peter had said (2Pe 3:10)

Jesus will say again (Rev 16:15).

## Revelation 3:1-6

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.

## A “Few” Good Men (and Women)

God always leaves a remnant

**Ezekiel 6:8** – “Yet I will leave some of you alive. When you have among the nations some who escape the sword, and when you are scattered through the countries, then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive

## A “Few”

**Romans 11:5-6** – So too at the present time there is **a remnant**, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

## “Garments” “White”

Some had not defiled themselves by coming in contact with the profane and the polluted (see Jude 1:23 b). Among the Jews, if a **priest's** garments were spotted or defiled, he could not minister; if he did, his service was rejected. As Christians, we are now a **royal priesthood**. **Holiness** reflects the character and nature of our Lord.

## Let's Go for a Walk

[Gr. '*peripateo*']: walk represents the course of our life, that which occupies our thoughts/affections.

God calls on us to walk '*with*  
Him'.

## Famous 'Walkers'

Adam/Eve: Genesis 3:8

Enoch: Gen. 5:21-24

Abraham: Genesis 13:17

Israel in wilderness: Joshua 5:6, Ex. 33:14-15

Two disciples on Road to Emmaus: Lk 24:13-15

Jesus among the lampstands: Revelation 2:1

Are You Getting Your Walking In???

## Revelation 3:1-6

5 The one who **overcomes** will be clothed the same way, 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.

## He Who Overcomes

**1 John 5:4-5** – For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

## Clothed in White

**white:** [Gr. *Leukos* ] literally meaning “light”, brightness, dazzling. Not a “white” color as we would think of it in cloth.

Think more in terms of the brilliant **shekinah glory** of God which will robe us just as Adam and Eve in the Garden prior to sins “disrobement”.

# Physics of Light

## Book of Life

WHAT ABOUT “erasing or BLOTTING OUT”: “blot out” [in Rome – people were blotted out from the governmental registry and, therefore, the public roles due to death or disenfranchisement (criminal conviction)]

Can you lose salvation

## Book of Life

The “**Book of Life**” contains the names of all the living, the wicked as well as the righteous.

Infants/the mentally incapacitated ...

**Revelation 13:8 and 17:8** suggest that the names of the saved are written in the book from the foundation of the world—that is, *before* they had done anything good or bad.

## Book of Life

**Jesus** told His disciples to rejoice because their names were “written in heaven” (Luke 10:20). The Greek verb is in the **perfect tense**, which means it can be translated, “your names have been written in heaven and **are on permanent record** up there.”

## Book of Life

Fact: God is omniscient (knows all things). If the names of believers (i.e. the elect) are written from the foundation of the world, why would He enter the name of somebody who would one day fall and have to be removed from the book?

## Book of Life

We are enrolled in heaven because we have been born again (Heb. 12:23), and no matter how disobedient a literal child may be, he or she cannot be “unborn.” As unbelievers die, their names are removed from the book; thus, at the final judgment, **the book** contains only the names of believers (Rev. 20:12–15).

## Book of Life

It then becomes “**the Lamb’s Book of Life**” (Rev. 21:27), because only those saved by the Lord Jesus Christ have their names in it. All the others have been blotted out, something God would never do for any true child of God (see Ex. 32:32; Rom. 9:3). It is a book of **life**, and lost sinners are **dead** (Eph. 2:1)

# Eternal Security

John 10:28-29

Romans 8:35-39

Romans 5:1; 8:1

Exodus 32:32-33; Psalm 69:28; Daniel  
12:1; Rev. 13:8; Rev. 17:8; Rev. 20:12  
(Dan. 7:10); Rev. 20:15 ; Rev. 21:27

He who has an ear

Complete the works God has  
prepared for you

Fight complacency

Pursue holiness

Wake Up and strengthen