



The Church Waking up a Dead Church Sardis

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- John testifies to everything he saw –that is, The Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.
- John is reporting to us the very words of Jesus Christ, as he was instructed by Him.

A Quick Review

Ephesus Revelation 2:1-7

You have forsaken your first love (your best love)

Smyrna Revelation 2:8-11

They were afflicted and impoverished, yet they were rich in their faith

Pergamum Revelation 2:12-17

They did not renounce their faith in the days of Antipas, yet some held to the teaching of Balaam and some to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Thyatira Revelation 2: 18-29

Doing more than they did at first, yet they tolerated the sin and teaching of Jezebel

Revelation 3:1-6 (NIV) *“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.*

⁴Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Sardis the City

- Historically a military stronghold – thought to be impregnable, yet conquered twice
- Former seat of the Satrap Persian Governor of Lydia
- 30 miles southeast of Thyatira on an important trade route that ran east to west through Lydia
- Center of pagan worship and home of the Temple to Artemis

Sardis the Church

- Probably a large church that enjoyed the wealth of the city.
- A church that **DWELLED** on past glories – recounting stories of the golden days.

The Words of Jesus

- The one who holds the **SEVEN SPIRITS** of God (*Isaiah 11:2-5*)
- The one who holds the **SEVEN STARS** (*Revelation 1:16, 20*)

Jesus Compliments the Church

- You have a **REPUTATION** for being alive
- You have a few who have not **SOILED** their clothes

Jesus Criticizes the Church

- You are dead!
- Your deeds are not **COMPLETE** in the sight of God

Jesus Commands the Church

- **WAKE** up!
- **STRENGTHEN** what remains
- Remember
- Obey
- Repent

Rewards for the faithful and those who overcome

- Will **WALK** with Jesus dressed in white for they are worthy
- Their names will not be **BLOTTED** out of the book of life

Personal Application...

Are we playing at church or are we being daily revitalized in the Spirit of Christ? Are we living in the glory of past victories or are we celebrating what Christ is doing through the church right now?

Wake up! Remember, Obey and Repent.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches!