

**Lesson 7 – Revelation 3:1-6**  
**Sardis: The Church that is \_\_\_\_\_**

**1. The Introduction (v1a).**

a. Sardis:

- 1) It was an important and wealthy city located on the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ route running east and west through Lydia.
- 2) It was located about \_\_\_\_\_ mile south-east of Thyatira and \_\_\_\_\_  
miles east of Smyrna.
- 3) It was the seat of the licentious worship of the mother goddess, \_\_\_\_\_ where  
orgies were practiced at the festivals held in her honor.
- 4) In addition to its \_\_\_\_\_, it was also a city known for its  
\_\_\_\_\_. The city was located on high ground surrounded by deep cliffs,  
which most felt were impossible to scale. However, due to their \_\_\_\_\_  
and failure to \_\_\_\_\_, the Persians under King Cyrus conquered the city by  
scaling the cliffs under the cover of darkness in 549 B.C., and the Greeks did the  
same thing in 214 B.C.
- 5) The city of Sardis serves as a powerful illustration of what happens to a church that  
fails to apply \_\_\_\_\_.

b. “These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars”:

- 1) Why the change in the location of the seven Spirits of God (i.e., the Holy Spirit) from  
that of 1:4? What might this change signify?
  - a) Based on Isa 11:2-5, He could be using this change in the Holy Spirit’s location to  
emphasis and contrast the qualities \_\_\_\_\_ by Him verses those  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the church at Sardis.
  - b) He could also be using this change in the Holy Spirit’s location to emphasis the  
fact that He \_\_\_\_\_ where the Holy Spirit is and is not \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e., a church without the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_  
to be a church).
- 2) Why the repeat of the reference to the seven stars used in the introduction of His letter  
to the church at Ephesus (2:1)?
  - a) Maybe He did it “to make clear that the leaders of the church are \_\_\_\_\_  
to human representative of Christ and must give account \_\_\_\_\_ to  
the Lord Himself” (John F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, 80).

- b) Maybe He did it to highlight the linkage between these two churches: for when a church loses its \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus (i.e., the church at Ephesus) the next link in the chain of its spiritual history is \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., the church at Sardis).

## 2. The Condemnation (v1b).

- a. Unlike the four previous letters, this church received no \_\_\_\_\_ at all. Jesus had nothing \_\_\_\_\_ to say about this church as a whole.

“Here, He commenced with words of condemnation. In the other churches, evil had not been the \_\_\_\_\_, but rather the \_\_\_\_\_, and therefore it was possible first to commend. Here the case is reversed, and no word of commendation is addressed to the church as a church” (G. Campbell Morgan, *The Letters of Our Lord*, 68).

- b. “I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.”
- 1) In their own eyes and evidently in the eyes of the other churches in the area, this church was perceived to be “a \_\_\_\_\_ church and one that had an effective \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for God” (Walvoord, 80).
  - 2) However, as A. T. Robertson puts it, Jesus informs them that theirs is “a name in contrast with \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - 3) Although there were a few in this church who were \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus declared this church as a whole to be \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a) In this context, the Greek word νεκρός (nekros) means “\_\_\_\_\_ to Christ and His \_\_\_\_\_ and thus exposed to punishment, spiritually \_\_\_\_\_” (Zodhiates, 1007). In other words, this church was \_\_\_\_\_ “as far as spiritual life and power were concerned” (Walvoord, 80).
    - b) This must mean that this church was full of \_\_\_\_\_: people claiming, pretending, or even worse yet, \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to be Christians when they really were not.
    - c) Since verse 2 makes it clear that “a full restoration of the will of God was also impossible,” this church was not only full of \_\_\_\_\_, but it was full of \_\_\_\_\_ whom God had given over to a \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 1:28).

## 3. The Charge (v2-3a).

- a. What causes a church to die spiritually?
- 1) From v1 – By becoming concerned with \_\_\_\_\_ men instead of God (Remember, they had a good reputation (i.e., name) among themselves and others.).

- a) *Read Gal 1:10.*
  - b) This leads to the true \_\_\_\_\_ being replaced by another (see Gal 1:6-9).
  - c) What does Paul warn us about in 2 Tim 4:3-5? Feel good sermons, the health and welfare gospel, and sleazy easy grace may be what the people \_\_\_\_\_ to hear, but it is not what they \_\_\_\_\_ to hear. These are the things that result in a spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ church. In other words, you end up with more unbelievers than believers.
- 2) From v2 – By failing to \_\_\_\_\_ for the temptations and attacks that will come.
- a) *Read Matt 26:41.*
  - b) *Read Acts 20:29-30.*
- 3) From v2 – By becoming \_\_\_\_\_ due to the lack of \_\_\_\_\_ exercise.
- a) \_\_\_\_\_ (laziness or indifference) leads to \_\_\_\_\_ (lack of energy or loss of strength) which leads to \_\_\_\_\_ which often results in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) *Read 1 Pet 5:8 – When stalking a herd of animals, which one will lions target first?*
  - c) We stay spiritually strong by exercising all \_\_\_\_\_ of the church in our lives.
- b. How to resuscitate a dying church.
- 1) “Be watchful” = Pres, Act, Imp = the worry over the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.
    - a) Is the fruit of salvation evident in that member’s life?
    - b) Is the wind of change blowing in that member’s life?
  - 2) “and strengthen (Aor, Act, Imp = to make steadfast in mind, confirm, strengthen) the things which remain, that are ready to die:”
    - a) \_\_\_\_\_ is so critically important to the spiritual health of a church.
    - b) Be on the lookout for those who are weak and get them on a \_\_\_\_\_ exercise program.

3) “Remember (Pres, Act, Imp) therefore how (in what way) thou hast received and heard, and hold fast (Pres, Act, Imp = keep or safeguard), and repent (Aor, Act, Imp = turn from sin to God).”

a) The key to resuscitating a dying church is to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to, and then \_\_\_\_\_ at all costs the message that established its existence in the first place.

1] *Read* 1 Cor 15:1-4.

2] *Read* Rom 1:16-17.

b) If this church would comply with these \_\_\_\_\_ (the biblical number for \_\_\_\_\_) commands, then it would experience an infusion of God’s \_\_\_\_\_, which would at least keep alive those things ready to die, if not breathe \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual life into the church as a whole.

#### **4. The Warning (v3b).**

a. When does a thief come?

b. Why does a thief come?

c. The bottom line is that a spiritually dead church will not be prepared for the \_\_\_\_\_ and will have to face the \_\_\_\_\_ of being left behind.

#### **5. The Promise and the Invitation (4-6).**

a. v4: “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me (the promise of direct \_\_\_\_\_ with God the Son just as Adam once had with God the Father – see Gen 3:8) in \_\_\_\_\_ (as the symbols of \_\_\_\_\_)” – i.e., because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (see Matt 22:1-14).

b. v4: “... for they are worthy.” They are declared worthy because of their steadfast belief in the biblical truth that their worthiness is based \_\_\_\_\_ on their \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (i.e., what \_\_\_\_\_ has done for them) and not on anything that \_\_\_\_\_ have done (see Eph 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5).

c. The “book of life” contains the names of every \_\_\_\_\_ ever conceived throughout the history of mankind.

d. The names of those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him before men (Matt 10:32) \_\_\_\_\_ in this book, while those who do not are \_\_\_\_\_ from the book (Matt 10:33).