

**“Letter to the Church  
of Sardis -  
*The Dead Church*”**

**Revelation 3: 1-6**

**June 14, 2020**

# Seven Churches of Revelation

Chapters 2-3

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



Sardis = those escaping  
(*works-based, sacrament-  
based, religion*)

Church of the Reformation -  
1517 - 1648

Many in America can lay claim to  
the Church of Sardis

They claim to be Christian, but  
have never been *“born again”*

## Verse 1

# Destination and Description of Jesus

Jesus to the Pastor and  
congregation - *“Hear what I have to  
say to you!”*

Jesus is saying to us today -  
*“LISTEN UP!!”*

Sardis had gross idolatry

*Yet, there remained a faithful few!*

**Like Sardis, America has an idol problem - the idol of self -**

***“I WANT MY WAY!”***

**Satan’s tactic in America is to overwhelm the mind 24/7 with lies**

**His goal is to sway public opinion away from the True God to the humanistic cultural gods**

**These humanistic gods will demand your full allegiance, *no opposition will be tolerated!***

**Free speech, in America, is dissipating into group thinking**

**None of the Churches in history had to deal with this type of brainwashing and mind control!**

**What did Sardis need? What do we need?**

*The power of the Holy Spirit!*

*“These things says He who has  
the seven Spirits of God and  
the seven stars”*



What does a dead person, a country, or Church need?

*LIFE!!*

How does one get life?

*You must be born again*

*John 3: 3-7*

A dead person, a country, or a Church's only hope is a *God infused life!*

Life is given to our dead spirits  
when we are “*born again*” -

John 3: 16

**It is this simple:**

God brings life; *abandoning*  
*God brings death!*

Verse 1  
Condemnation

This Church thought they were  
alive and happening

Jesus tells them the truth - ***“YOU  
ARE DEAD!!”***

The Church of the Reformation  
had no spiritual vitality; ***they had  
head knowledge, but no heart  
change!***

**Verse 2 - 3**  
**Exhortation**

# Jesus to this Church and us (the Remnant) today:

- 1) **Be watchful** - stay awake,  
maintain your watch
- 2) **Strengthen what remains** -  
though not mentioned - *keep  
doing it, keep going!*

# Jesus to this Church and us (the Remnant) today:

- 3) **Hold fast** - to the truth of the Word; don't give up or give in
- 4) **Repent** - a change of heart, accompanied by a change of action - *a changed life!*

**Many in the end time Church will be caught napping**

**They do not believe in the Rapture or the Millennial Reign of Christ**

**The study of Prophecy is foolish to them, yet 28% of the Bible is prophecy**

**God wants you to know; He expects you to know what is coming!**

**Jesus comes unannounced for His people, much like a *“thief in the night”* (verse 3)**



Code words for us:

***WATCH AND BE READY!!***

**Watch for what?**

*The signs of the times*  
**Daniel 12: 4**

## Verse 4

# Cloaked Commendation

There are a few who are loyal - *the Remnant*

- A few who did not defile their garment

The state of the defiled:

*“Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”* (2 Timothy 3: 5)

Religious and lost is the state of most in the world today

Verse 5 - 6

Promise

# The promise to Overcomers:

## *White Garments*

White garments are a picture of salvation

The moment one believes, Jesus' righteousness is credited to him/her

It is not about feeling clean, it is about knowing *I am clean because of what Jesus did for me*

**FACT**

**FAITH**

**FEELING**



# What is the Book of Life?

- 1) The Book contains the names of every person born - Psalm 139: 16
- 2) Those who believe have their names retained in the Book - Revelation 3: 5
- 3) The unsaved have their names blotted out of the Book of Life - Psalm 69: 28

**All humans die; all humans will stand before Christ and be judged**

**The most important question that every human must grapple with is:**

***“What will you do with Jesus who is called the Christ?”***

**Matthew 27: 22**



**CLOSING: THE LETTER TO SARDIS -  
THE DEAD CHURCH**

Never, ever, ever, ever forget:

***JESUS IS STILL THE ANSWER!!***

Dead people, like in Sardis, can, in a moment, become live people forever,  
**How?**

*By simply believing in Jesus Christ as their Savior and receiving the free gift of salvation*

**CLOSING: THE LETTER TO SARDIS -  
THE DEAD CHURCH**

**REMEMBER: *Salvation is great!!  
Salvation is free!!***

**For any dead country, for any dead  
Church or dead person:**

***JESUS IS STILL THE ANSWER!!***

***JESUS IS STILL  
THE ANSWER!***