

“Sardis: The Dead Church”
Revelation 3:1-6

Revelation #8

The risen and exalted Christ ministers to His church at Sardis.

1. Jesus’ Declaration

v. 1

(1) How Jesus Presents Himself *“These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars”*

- **Significance:** Directly related to Jesus’ admonition and His warning of judgment (vv. 2-3)
- **Meaning:** **Jesus is the One in whom there is fullness of life!**
He is the only source of life.
His church has life and light and power only in Him. cf. 1:4, 12, 20; 4:5
Jesus is the sovereign King over His church; He does with her as He will.

(2) Jesus Knows all about this church! *“I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”*

-1- They had a reputation for being a viable church

- 2- They are in fact dead!**
 - But they have not ceased to be a church in Jesus’ eyes
 - There are still some true believers in their midst

2. Jesus’ Admonition

vv. 2-4

(1) His Counsel and Warning to the Whole Church (2-3)

- 1- “Be watchful”**
 - “Wake up!” (ESV)
 - They had failed in this and the enemy had taken advantage!
- 2- “Strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die”**
 - Things were in an entirely weakened state
 - Their works were presently incomplete – left undone. *“I have found no works of yours complete”*
- 3- “Remember how you have received and heard”**
 - “What you have received” (that deposit of truth)
 - “...and what you heard” (their original hearing of the gospel)

-4- “Hold fast and repent”

-5- “if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief...”
“and you will not know” (strong double negative)

(2) His Commendation of a Very Few (4) *“You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.”*

3. Jesus’ Promise

vv. 5-6

(1) The Promise *“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”*

-1- The Condition: *“He who overcomes”* *but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”*

- Characteristic of all true saints
- Descriptive of the character of the Christian life

-2- The Reward:

- Perfect purity in the age to come! *“He...shall be clothed in white garments”*

- Assured security in the favor of God! *“I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life”*
- An implied warning to those with an empty profession of faith!
“I will not blot out” (strong double negative) *“No way will I ever blot out!”*

- Jesus’ open acknowledgment before all of heaven! *“I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”*

(2) The Call to Hear *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

- The admonition is to be received by all