

“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

-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