



Rev. 3:1 “And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. 4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

To the angel (Messenger or Pastor) of the church in Sardis – Sardis is an old military fortress-city. The church in Sardis was obviously an older church perhaps whose glory-days were in her past. The Lord Jesus presents Himself as the one who has the seven Spirits of God (cf. Rev. 1:4; Zech. 4:1-10; Isa. 11:1-2; Jn. 15:26; Rom. 8:9) – Christ dispatches the Spirit who is the Life-Giver – in this case to revive the church in Sardis. Jesus reminds them that he is the one who has the seven stars in His right hand – He cares about the pastor and the church; He knows the spiritual state of each pastor and church.

The pastor of the church in Sardis has a reputation of being alive, but the Lord knows that they are spiritually dead. They may function but they are truly dysfunctional. Four remedies are prescribed by the Lord (v.2): “Be watchful” – wake up and be alert. Old Sardis was conquered by the enemies who climbed the mountain to attack them from behind. “Strengthen the things which remain” - (v.3) “Remember” and “Repent” – to turn from sin and return to Christ.

Christ’s warning is that if they (pastor and church) do not repent, he will come to them in judgment as a thief. This is no doubt like how Christ will rapture all the believers and leave behind all who are spiritually dead. To the unsaved His return is like a thief in the night.

Believers are recognized and rewarded as such:

1. They will wear a distinct clothing of a “white raiment” – symbolic of their salvation and worthy service.
2. Their names will not be blotted out of the book of life. – the blotting out of names is judgment (Exo. 32:33-34; Deut. 9:14; 25:19; 29:20; Ps. 69:28; Rev. 13:8; 20:12; 21:27; Blessings for those whose names are written: Isa. 4:3; Dan. 12:1; Mal. 3:16; Lk. 10:20; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 21:27)
3. They will be recognized and acknowledged by the Lord Jesus in the presence of the Father and His angels.

The Spirit is still speaking to the assemblies – He did back then, He does today. AMEN!