

## *Seven Churches Of Asia Series:*

### **Sardis: The Dead Church**

**Rev. 3:1-6**

Introduction:

- A. Sardis:
  - 1. Once one of the richest and most powerful city in the world.
  - 2. About 35 miles E-SE of Thyatira
- B. Let us notice the various parts of this letter:

Discussion:

#### **I. The Description of Christ In This Letter (v. 1)**

- A. "Has Seven Spirits of God."
  - 1. Had Spirit without measure (John 3:34).
  - 2. Shed forth H.S. on Pentecost (Acts 2:33).
- B. Has "seven stars" or angels - all under his authority. (cf. Matt. 28:18-20).

#### **II. The Condition Of The Church At Sardis.**

- A. Her good points:
  - 1. A few who had not defiled their garments.(v. 4).
    - a. The faithful few often keep churches going.
    - b. The faithful few who keep themselves unspotted from world. (cf. Jas. 1:27)
    - c. The faithful few have always been the perserved. (cf. Noah, 10 would have saved Sodom).
  - 2. A few who were worthy - could not be said of all.
- B. Her bad points:
  - 1. A dead church, in spite of her reputation as living church. (v. 1)
    - a. Dead churches can be very active.
    - b. Dead churches died for a variety of reasons.
      - (1) May have not been taught.
      - (2) May have become complacent and careless.
      - (3) May have been absorbed by environment.
      - (4) May have consumed themselves. (cf. Gal. 5:15).
  - 2. Her works were not perfect or mature.

#### **III. The Advice To The Church At Sardis.**

- A. "Be watchful" (v. 2; cf. Mark 13:37; 1 Cor. 16:13)
  - 1. Watch for souls.
  - 2. Watch for Jesus to come. (v. 3)
- B. "Strengthen the things which remain. (v. 2)
  - 1. Strong members have responsibilities to weak. (cf. Rom. 15:1 KJV).
  - 2. Often need to give special effort to salvage whom we can from dead churches.
- C. "Remember..." (v. 3)
- D. "Hold fast" (v. 3)
- E. "Repent" (cf. Lk 13:3; Acts 17:30).
- F. Overcome (v.5)
  - 1. To be clothed in whit - made white in blood of Lamb. (Rev. 7:14)
  - 2. To keep from having name blotted out of book of Life. (cf. Phil. 4:3; Rev. 20:12; 22:19)
  - 3. To have Jesus confess name before Father and angels. (cf. Matt. 10:32).

Conclusion:

- A. How can you tell that a church is dead?
- B. A church may be dead and still have some faithful - need to salvage them if possible.