



CHURCH OF SARDIS

<p>1 And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the <u>seven spirits of God and the seven stars</u>.</p>	<p>Rebuke</p> <p>*The number seven in Revelation carries the meaning of perfection and completeness. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches (Revelation 1:20). The 'seven spirits' represents God's power and presence among the churches; the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>" I know your works. You have the <u>reputation of being alive</u>, but you are dead.</p> <p>2 <u>Wake up</u>, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have <u>not found your works complete</u> in the sight of my God.</p>	<p>Rebuke</p> <p>*The church in Sardis may have had a good reputation among themselves or even the other churches. But in God's eyes they were dying.</p> <p>How is a church's reputation important? What do you imagine the church in Sardis looked like in order to have the reputation of being alive? What does a church today look like that has a reputation of being alive, but is actually dead? What does it look like for a church to really be alive?</p> <p>*History shows that the city of Sardis mistakenly thought it was safe from military attacks. So, also the church in Sardis thought it was doing well and could continue without changing its ways. Jesus told them to 'wake up' (gregoreo), meaning to be alert, watchful and ready to learn.</p> <p>What things do we need to be watchful about? How do we stay awake?</p> <p>*Followers of Jesus should never be complacent thinking our work is complete. There is still work to be done as ambassadors in God's Kingdom.</p>
<p>3 <u>Remember</u>, then, what you received and heard. <u>Keep</u> it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour <u>I will come</u> against you.</p>	<p>Warning</p> <p>*The church in Sardis heard the Good News about Jesus and His teachings. They received this truth by putting their trust in Him. But it was slipping from their minds and they were not obeying it anymore. So, Jesus told them to remember it and keep it.</p> <p>*This sudden unexpected coming could refer to a specific time when Christ would come to punish the church in Sardis or it could also be His coming at the end of time (Matthew 24:42-44).</p>



BLUEPRINTS OF A DANGEROUS CHURCH STUDY KEY

4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.

5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Encouragement v4, Hope v5

*'Soiled garments' (sinful attitudes, thoughts and behaviors) are in contrast with being clothed in white v5 (pure attitudes, thoughts and behaviors that are pleasing to God) (see also Revelation 3:18, 7:14).

*The phrase 'walk with me' indicates a close personal relationship.

*The book of life is a good reminder for a church that is spiritually dead. This is the book that contains the list of names of all the people who will receive eternal life with Christ.

*For Jesus to confess the name of those who conquer means that He will confirm that they are truly His followers and belong to Him.