

## Revelation and Daniel – Revelation 3:1-6

Church and Passage	Characterization Verse 1	Commendation Verse 4	Criticism Verse 1	Charge Verses 2-3	Consequence Verse 5
Sardis 3:1-6	He who has the seven spirits and the seven stars	Some had not soiled their garments	They were dead, had incomplete deeds, and were asleep	Wake up, strengthen what remains, remember and obey, repent	Clothed in white garments, name exalted and confessed before the Father and His angels

Sardis – The ancient capital of Lydia was located at the junction of five main roads and was a center for trade. It was one of the oldest and most important cities of Asia Minor. It was also a military center, located on an almost inaccessible plateau. Two times, in 549 B.C. and in 214 B.C., because of false security, Sardis had fallen. At the time of this letter, Sardis was in decline compared to its former glory.

**Christ** – *He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars* (1:4, 16). Christ reminds them that He knows their true spiritual condition because He possesses the omniscient Spirit of God and He knows intimately all His churches.

**Criticism** – *You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead* – They honor God with their lips but their hearts are far from Him. They are outwardly active but inwardly dead.

Four phases of ministry:

A *man* – God calls a leader

A *movement* – People rise up for the cause

A *machine* – In motion but not growing

A *monument* – Past glory but no future

**Charge** – *Wake up* – Be watchful, on guard!

Proverbs 4:23, “*Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.*”

Proverbs 4:26, “*Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established.*”

2 John 8, “*Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.*”

1 Timothy 6:20, “*O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you...*”

2 Timothy 1:14, “*Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.*”

2 Peter 3:17, “*...be on your guard, so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.*”

1 John 5:21, “*Little children, guard yourselves from idols..*”

*Strengthen the things that remain* – *Strengthen* = *sterizo*. To become stronger or act more effectively.

Romans 1:11, “*For I long to see you that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established (sterizo).*”

*Which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God* – Neglect had caused much of their ministry to be ineffective. It also appears they had a tendency to start things but not finish them as God desired.

2 Timothy 3:14, “*You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of...*” See 2 Timothy 4:3.

Three steps to remedy their situation:

1 *Remember what you have received and heard* – Sound doctrine is always the foundation for bringing honor to the Lord.

2 *Keep it* – Obey diligently and consistently.

3 *Repent* – Change their thought process and turn from their sinfulness.

If they fail to remedy their situation:

*I will come like a thief and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.* This same figure is used of the second coming but here it is not related to that event. It does illustrate, like the second coming, that if they fail to repent, their judgment will be sudden and unexpected.

**Commendation** – *A few have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy* - Notice the contrast to the overcomer who is clothed in white garments (3:5). The church at Laodicea is instructed to buy from Jesus white garments (3:18). The twenty-four elders around the throne are clothed in white garments (4:4). The church is clothed in fine linen, bright and clean, which stands for the righteous acts of the saints (19:8).

**Consequence** –

1 - *He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments* – If we walk with Jesus in white now, we will be clothed in white garments when He comes.

2 – *I will not erase his name from the book of life* – This is another double negative which points to a litotes, a figure of speech in which the writer expresses an affirmative idea through the negation of its opposite.

3 – *I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.* Note Matthew 10:32-33, and Luke 12:8-9.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

*-For if we died with Him we shall also live with Him*

*-If we endure we shall also reign with Him*

*-If we deny Him, He will also deny us*

*-If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.*

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

*“Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.”* Hebrews 5:11