

Sardis September 28, 2025

September 27, 2025



Sardis - The Dead Church

Revelation 3:1-6 NKJV

And to the Angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. 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. He who overcomes shall be clothed garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Is the Church called to "Get Along or Go Along" with other religions?

Seven Churches / Seven Letters Summary to Date

1. John the Revelator is exiled on the Isle of Patmos for preaching the Gospel.
2. He is "In the Spirit" on the Lord's Day
3. Upon hearing a voice, John turns to see Jesus and falls like a dead man
4. Jesus instructs John to write letters to seven churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey)
5. Asia Minor, once controlled by the Pergamum Empire was bequeathed to the Roman Empire by King Attalus III
 - a. This was huge for the Roman Empire
 - b. This was also HUGE for the Gospel - God was setting the region up to allow the Gospel to be taken around the known world
6. The letters to the churches contain both encouragement and chastisement from Jesus

A Thief in the Night

1. If the Church in Sardis did not watch, Jesus said He would come upon them like a thief in the night. Revelation 3:3
2. Residence in Sardis knew exactly what this meant
 - a. King Croesus was an extremely wealthy king of the Lydian Empire with his capital at Sardis.
 - b. He had built a seemingly unpenetrable wall around his city high up on the hill in Sardis.
 - c. King Cyrus the Great of Persia surrounded the city.
 - d. King Cyrus defeated Croesus by finding a small opening unguarded and entered as a "thief in the night."
 - c. **Just when he thought he was safe...**
3. Jesus is not addressing Sardis or the other six churches because He wants to bring total judgement and wipe them out. Jesus is trying to prepare the Church!
4. But rest assured... Judgement - is coming!
 - a. I Thessalonians 5:1-2
 - b. II Peter 3:9-10

Message of Jesus

1. I am THE way, THE truth, THE life, No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6
2. Jesus called other religious systems “systems of Satan”
3. Unlike some of the other cities / churches, the church at Sardis had decided to just “Get Along” or “Go Along” with the other religious systems in the city
4. In fact, it was evident all of them were doing the same.
 - a. The Jewish Synagogue in Sardis was the largest outside of Palestine.
 - b. It’s pillars had names written in Greek.
 - c. The altar had Roman Eagles on the ends
 - d. The Synagogue itself backed up to a Roman outdoor Gymnasium and bath house.
 - e. There were Pagan images on the Synagogue Floor
5. This “Coexist” culture had crept into the Church as well
 - a. There were Christian Crosses on the market place stalls next to Jewish stalls.
 - b. Jews would have not allowed this had there not been a get along culture.
6. By allowing the “Coexist” culture to flourish, they KILLED the Message.
7. Jesus called them a DEAD CHURCH

God is Love

1. Matthew 22:37-40 On these two commandments hang all the Law.... LOVE
2. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them...”
3. Jesus loved with unconditional love - I submit that we cannot fully understand this love this side of heaven
4. If we are to be followers of Christ, Christians must Love...
 - a. Everyone - all the time - regardless of race, religion, gender, etc.

ONE WAY

1. Other religions don’t have a problem with Christianity or even Jesus
2. UNTIL - John 14:6

3. Jesus didn't come to earth and give His life as a ransom for mankind to "Get Along" or "Coexist" with other religious systems. He came to conquer!
4. We live in a society that is trying to "coexist" again
5. The church cannot KILL the MESSAGE
6. Kill the Message - Kill the Power
7. A Dead Church is nothing more than a community country club

Strengthen What You Have Left

1. Put Jesus back in Power - Preach the Word
2. Be Watchful (Guard) - Military word
3. Hold Fast to the Truth - Sound Doctrine
4. Repent

Clothed in White Garments

1. He who overcomes will be clothed in white garments
2. Military victors would march in white garments
3. White garments (Biblically) refers to purity, victory, Bride of Christ