

Sardis the Dead Church

Rev 3: 1-6

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- When we look at the letters to the 7 churches, we will see that they could correspond various periods of church history

- For example, the periods are divided like this

• Ephesus	Apostolic Age	Before AD 100
• Smyrna	Age of Persecution	AD 100-313
• Pergamos	Gov't Church Age	AD 313-590
• Thyatira	Age of Papacy	AD 590-1517
• Sardis	Reformation Age	AD 1517-1730
• Philadelphia	Missionary Age	AD 1730-1900
• Laodicea	Age of Apostacy	AD 1900-??

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- We must be careful not to put too much trust in this claim
 - While indeed the rotation of letter addresses the churches in a clockwise progression
 - There is nothing from Scripture to indicate that this is main reason for these letters is to lay out church history
 - Rather, we must understand that the letters were intended to apply to every aspect of the church age
 - However, the last 3 letters were especially written in the light of the coming Tribulation period (Rev 3: 10)

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- This is why we see the last 3 letters could correspond to the Reformation Age, Missionary Age and the Age of Apostacy.
- Rev 3: 1-6
 - There are several things to note in this letter
 - First.....there is no message of commendation
 - Second....this church thinks it is alive (Vs 1)
 - But it is dead
 - Third.....this church is called to “wake up” (Vs 2)
 - “be on the alert”

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- Fourth....your deeds are half-hearted (Vs 2b)
- Fifth....Remember..... (Vs 3)
 - “It will be like a thief”
 - “You do not know what hour I am coming”
- Sixth....there are some who will walk with Me in white (Vs 4)
- Seventh....I will not blot out your name (Vs 5)
 - “I will confess his name before My Father”
- Eighth.....”He who has an ear let him hear
 - What the Spirit says to the churches

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- “You have a name that you are alive?”
 - Who is this who is speaking?
 - He who has the seven (complete) 7 spirits of God
 - John 1: 32-33...” And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”
 - The One speaking is the One who has the fullness of the Spirit of God who gives regenerative life to the believer.
 - The Spirit in His fullness sees those who name the name of Christ but have abandoned worship for Him with ritualistic dry liturgy

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- Vs 2....."Wake up"
 - This reminds us the parable of the 10 virgins
 - Matt 25: 5.. "Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep."
 - I Pet 5: 8..."Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."
- Vs 3...."you will not know at what hour I will come to you"
 - Matt 24: 42.... Therefore, be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.
 - Lk 12: 40...Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

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- If there is anything that will put life into your walk with Christ...
 - It is looking for His return!!!
 - I Jn 1: 28...And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.
- Vs 2..."I have not found your deeds completed"
 - "IN THE SIGHT OF GOD"
 - Psa 19: 14.. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.
 - Psa 51: 16-17...For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

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- Vs 5..."He who overcomes will be clothed in white garments"
 - Whenever we see glimpses of glory, we see those in heaven clothed in white, clean and bright
 - Rev 3: 5; 18; 4: 4; 19: 8; 14....Matt 17: 1-5
- Vs 5..."I will not erase his name from the book of life"
 - This is somewhat a controversial verse
 - Unconditional eternal security. (John 10: 28-29; Rom 8: 35-39; John 17: 11-12)

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- Others will point to this text (Rev 3: 5) and others in opposition this view...
 - They will point to....
 - Heb 6: 4-6; Heb 10: 26-29
- So how do we reconcile this issue?
 - First.....not one of us is God, therefore our judgment in this matter is skewed.
 - This is a matter which we are not qualified to be dogmatic.
 - Second...Rom 7: 7-11
 - Gen 18: 23.... And Abraham came near and said, “Wilt Thou indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”

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- Here is what we do know...
 - Heb 11: 6...But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
 - James 2: 17-18.... Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works; shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.
- Let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches