

Message Four

Rev. 3:1-6

- 1 And to the messenger 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 living, and yet you are dead.
- 2 Become watchful and establish the things which remain, which were about to die; for I have found none of your works completed before My God.
- 3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and keep it and repent. If therefore you will not watch, I will come as a thief, and you shall by no means know at what hour I will come upon you.
- 4 But you have a few names in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they will walk with Me in white because they are worthy.
- 5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and 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.

IV. The Church in Sardis—Rev. 3:1-6:

- A. “Sardis”:
 1. From the early part of the sixteenth century to the Lord’s coming back.
 2. The Lord’s reaction to Thyatira’s condition.
- B. The Lord’s name:
 1. He who has the “seven spirits of God” and “the seven stars.”
 2. Life and light versus death and organization.
- C. The condition of the church:
 1. A name of being living, yet dead.
 2. Things “about to die,” with no works “completed before My God”:
 - a. Luther and the Reformation—good but not complete.
 - b. God’s complete salvation—two aspects (cf. Rom. 5:10).
 - c. The ‘state churches’—not going all the way back to the beginning.
 - d. Establishing a trend of more division.
 - e. The need for revivals.
 3. Remembering what was in the beginning and repenting—cf. Acts 2:42-47.
 4. Or, the Lord coming as a thief upon the unaware:
 - a. The seriousness and danger of death.
 - b. The necessity of life.
 - c. A “few names in Sardis” who have undefiled “garments.”
- D. The promise to the overcomers and call to those with an ear:
 1. Overcoming deadness and incompleteness.
 2. Clothed in white garments—the two robes of a Christian.
 3. Our name being confessed—a matter of reward in the coming kingdom.
- E. Measuring the church in Sardis.