

THE CHURCH IN SARDIS
REV. 3:1-6

Introduction:

- A. "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis, write."
 - 1. angel = messenger = pastor.
 - 2. Sardis = Capital city of Lydia, situated on a nearly inaccessible hill, thought by the inhabitants to be impregnable.

- B. "These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars."
 - 1. seven Spirits = 4:5, 5:6, As the seven churches represent all the churches, these are representative of all the ministering Spirits before God's throne.
 - 2. seven stars = are the angels of the seven churches, 1:20.

I. THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT SARDIS. V1b,2

- A. "I know thy works."
 - 1. know = oida - I have seen, Latin, "video."
 - 2. works = ergon = things brought into being by labor.

- B. "that thou hast a name that thou livest, and are dead."
 - 1. Sardis had a good reputation that it did not deserve
 - 2. Thou dost pass for a living man, thou art a corpse.
Knox.

- C. "be watchful and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die."
 - 1. watchful = gregoreo - to be awake, to be watchful.
 - 2. .The people were arrogant, over-confident.
 - a. Scaled a crevice in 549 B.C., in 218 B.C. city captured.

["that are ready to die."]

- 3. strengthen = sterizo - to fix firmly, to make fast, to set fast.

4. remain = ta loipa = the remaining things.
5. ready = prothumos = predisposed, willing, eager.
6. die = apothnesko - to die out, become dead.

D. "for I have not found thy works perfect before God."

1. works = ergon.
2. perfect = pleroo - to make full, full up, fulfilled, performed, accomplished.

II. THE COURSE OF ACTION FOR THIS CHURCH. V3a

A. "Remember, therefore, how thou hast received, and heard"

1. remember = mnemoneuo - to call to one's mind.
2. received = lambano - to take or receive from another, to take what is given.
3. heard = akouo - to have learned by hearing.
4. They are to remember HOW they received, not so much WHAT.

B. "and repent."

1. repent = metanoeo - to change one's mind and purpose, to reform, to make a change from worse to better.
2. Every ill of every church can be solved by one act, REPENT!

III. THE WARNING. V3b

A. "If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief."

1. watchful servants are working servants.
 - a. Luke 12:31-44.
2. Servants who do not watch, do not work.
 - a. Luke 12:45-48

B. "And thou shalt know what hour I shall come upon thee."

1. There will be no need to wonder!
2. His coming will bring severe testing.

IV. THE REMNANT ACKNOWLEDGED. U4

- A. "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments."
1. few = oligos - little, opposite of much.
2. defiled = moluno - to soil, besmear, as with mud or filth, to blot.
- B. "and they shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy."
1. walk = peripateo - to tread about.
2. worthy = aksios - of equal value, worthy.

V. THE PROMISES TO THE OVERCOMER. U5

- A. "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment."
1. overcometh = nikao - conquer, to be victorious.
2. clothed = periballo - to cast or throw around, to put on clothing.
- B. "And I will not blot out his name out of the book of life."
1. blot = eksaleipho - to smear completely, to plaster over, to wipe out.
2. book of life = biblos - a written book, roll or volume, / +zoe - to breath the breath of life, "the book of the living."
3. Rev. 13:8; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27; Daniel 12:1, Malichi 3:16.
- C. "but I will confess his name before my father, and before His angels."
1. confess = eksomologeoo - ek - out of + omologeoo - to speak the same things, to accord, agree with, admit, to agree fully and speak out completely.
2. confess = Luke 10:21, "I thank thee father."

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- a. Matt. 11:25, "I thank thee, O Father." (praise)
- 3. Some places it is translated, "Praise."
- 4. Matt. 10:32, "Whosoever therefore shall confessing me before men, him will I confess also before my father which is in heaven."
 - a. homologeo + en - to acknowledge him.

VI. GOD'S PLEA TO BE HEARD. V6

- A. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

