

## 7 Churches of Revelation

### Sardis - the Corpse of a Church

#### Revelation 3:1-6

**Intro** *No deceit like self-deceit! Living on past accomplishments*  
- brands with a name but are no longer cutting edge tech  
- teams that were once champions  
- churches that had days of glory (large buildings)  
- people who only talk about the past

**Intro to Sardis** 50 Km east of Ephesus, 30 miles south of Thyatira

**Ancient Glory** -King Croesus (Pronounced -Kreesus) riches man of world  
Military and Commercial center on top of plateau (250 meters high)  
Known for white woolen garments - worn by Temple worshippers

#### Religion

Major temple to Artemis - as large as one at Ephesus (not completed)  
Gymnasium (university) dedicated to worship of Caesars  
Synagogue - largest outside of Jerusalem (next to Gymnasium)  
Church built next to a Temple

#### Destruction - Could not be defeated by normal tactics

Cyrus defeated the fortress by watching a guard retrieve his helmet  
Found secret opening in wall - unguarded  
Alexander also defeated it when guards were not watchful

#### I. Christ - He who has 7 Spirits of God and 7 Stars 1a

There is only one Holy Spirit - but 7 means completeness, fullness  
The Spirit is life - in Christ is the fullness of life **John 10:10b**  
The 7 stars - **Revelation 1:20** - the angels,

#### II. Commendation You have a name, a few are unsoiled

##### A Name that you are alive

Known for deeds and accomplishments in past

##### A Few are unsoiled

Perhaps had not mixed with pagan religions

#### III. Complaint - you are dead, your deeds are incomplete

**You are dead** - current state of church

Could mean lack of works - **James 2:17, 20**

Could mean they were living in the past without current

##### Your deeds are not complete

Lack of full repentance or complete love

Following Christ includes separation from the world

**Asleep** - if you do not wake up - I will come like a thief

They had become acceptable and comfortable in sinful world

Will be defeated but unaware of the danger

#### IV. Counsel Wake up! Remember and Repent

**Wake up!** - become aware of the present lack in your life

Until we know we are asleep we cannot wake up

**Remember** - the transformation of your life

The scriptures say we were dead and became alive

**Repent** - turn away from complacency and to Christ

Turn again to the joy of following close to God

#### V. Compensation - White garments, Name remains, Confessed

**White garments** - **Isaiah 1:18** Always in scripture those who are pure  
Christ at His transfiguration - in robes of white

Saints in **Revelation 7:9** Clean through Salvation

**Names not removed but eternal**

A person was recorded in city books at birth and removed at death

The cities removed names of criminals and enemies of the state

Christ said those who overcome would not have their names erased

Christ told His disciples that their names were written in the

Lambs book of life (not book of life) **Luke 10:20**

**Name confessed before God the Father and the angels**

Christ will proclaim who belongs to Him before God **Matthew 10:32**

#### VI. Crux

1. Having a name and being alive in Christ is not the same
2. There is a danger in becoming comfortable in this world
3. No church or person living is beyond hope.

#### Steps we need to take

**Wake up** - check the condition of your relationship with Christ

Is it only about something in the past?

Do you have a living relationship with Him today?

**Remember** - remember the life changing Words of Christ

Walk in obedience to the Word received

**Repent** - turn again to Him - He is waiting for you

There is still hope for you

**Sign up today for Weekend Retreat - September 29 - October 1**