

# The Dead Church

**Revelation 3:1-6**

Series: What Type of Church Are We?



# The Seven Churches



# The Seven Churches Historically

<i>Church</i>	<i>Meaning of name</i>	<i>Symbolizing</i>
Ephesus	desire	the first century (apostolic)
Smyrna	persecution/death	the period of persecution
Pergamum	thoroughly married	the age of Constantine
<b>Thyatira</b>	<b>continual sacrifice</b>	<b>the Middle Ages</b>
<b>Sardis</b>	<b>those escaping</b>	<b>the Reformation era</b>
Philadelphia	brotherly love	the modern missionary movement
Laodicea	the people ruling	the apostate church of the last days



# Introduction

- **The Author - He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars**
- The Recipients – The church at Sardis – more particularly to the pastor
- Fault- They are dead
- Thyatira – Those escaping



# Introduction

- Sardis was located about thirty miles south of Thyatira in the fertile valley of the Hermus River. A series of spurs or hills jutted out from the ridge of Mount Tmolus, south of the Hermus River. On one of those hills, some fifteen hundred feet above the valley floor, stood Sardis. Its location made the city all but impregnable.



# Introduction

- Its seemingly impregnable location caused the inhabitants of Sardis to become overconfident. That complacency eventually led to the city's downfall.
- It was also very wealthy due to gold in the rivers.
- One of the first cities to mint gold and silver coins.



# Introduction

- A catastrophic earthquake destroyed the city in 17 AD, but it was rebuilt with the generous financial aid of Emperor Tiberius. In gratitude, the inhabitants of Sardis built a temple in his honor.
- The city's primary object of worship was the goddess Cybele—the same goddess worshiped at Ephesus as Artemis (Diana).



# Introduction

- **Hot springs not far from Sardis were celebrated as a spot in which the gods manifested their supposed power to give life to the dead—an ironic note for a city whose church was dead. In John's day Sardis was prosperous but decaying, its glory days long past.**



## Revelation 3:1-6 (NASB)

1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

2 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.



## Revelation 3:1-6 (NASB)

3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent.

Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.



## Revelation 3:1-6 (NASB)

5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from 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.'



# I. The Sin of Deadness

**'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.**

**Alive but now dead.**

**A complacent church is sinful.**



## 2. The Signs of Deadness

**Look at the city of Sardis:**

**A. Resting on the Laurels Instead of Battling the Enemy**

**B. Compromising Instead of Setting Apart**

**C. Counting the Cost Instead of Carrying the Cross**



# 3. The Solution to Deadness

3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent...and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

God's Word

Walking with God



# Are we dead?

**Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.**

**We have been warned if we are dead in Christ, we need to be ready.**



# Wake Up!

**WHY?**

**5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**

**Will Christ confess you before the Father?**

