



## ***To the Angel of the Church at Sardis.....***

*Revelation 3:1-6, "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> Wake up! (Be watchful, KJV) Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup> Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.<sup>4</sup> Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup> The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. <sup>6</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches." NIV*

## **Who are the "angels of the seven churches"?**

*Could be:*

- ✓ *Angels designated to guard the churches (heavenly messengers)*
- ✓ *Elders or pastors of the local churches... (earthly messengers). If these are earthly leaders or messengers, they are accountable to God for the churches they represent.*

## **Sardis...City of Degeneration**

- *700 years prior to letter being written, one of the greatest cities in the world*
- *Sardis was actually two cities (Sardeis)...one in the plain, the other 1500' high on a hill (the original Sardis)*
- *Sardis (on the mountain)...citizens and army felt that they were impregnable...No war machines could take this city because of its location (3 sides 1500' wall of rock...other was soldier lined).*
- *Very wealthy city...Gold was in the river that ran through the valley town*
- *Proud town, "no one can beat us...no one can take our city."*
- *Cyrus of Persia took the city...Cyrus offered a reward for anyone that could come up with a way.*
- *The mountain...was like dried mud...with crevices.*

- *One of the soldiers felt that they could climb up the backside of the wall...holding on and stepping on the cracks in the wall.*
- *They found the city a sleep...with no watchman on the walls.*
- *The Persian army took the city...and the city lay desolate for 200 years*
- *Alexander the Great placed the city in service again for the Roman Army*
- *After Alexander's death, Antiochus became ruler of the city and Sardis was still flourishing.*
- *When war broke out again, the Sardians retreated to their city on the hill...thinking that there was no way they can be taken.*
- *They were taken again...exactly the same way...while the Sardians were asleep...with no watchman on the walls...*

No wonder the Risen Christ continually tells the Sardian Church to:  
*“Watch, Be Ready, Wake up”!*

*No Commandment Appears More Frequently in the New Testament Than to:*

### **Watch...Wake Up!**

- *Watchfulness Should Be the Constant Attitude of the Christian Life.*
  - ✓ *Paul says, “It is full time to wake from your sleep!” Romans 13:11*
  - ✓ *“Be watchful, stand firm in your faith.” 1 Corinthians 16:13*
- *The Christian Must Be on the Watch Against the Wiles of the Devil. 1 Peter 5:8*
  - ✓ *Watch for the continual attack of Satan*
- *The Christian Must Be on the Watch Against Temptation.*
  - “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” Jesus.*
  - Matthew 26:41*
- *Christians Need to Be on the Watch for the Coming of the Lord.”*
  - ✓ *“Watch therefore, for you do not know what day your Lord is coming.” Jesus, Matthew 24:42*
  - ✓ *“What I say to you, I say to all...Watch!” Mark 13:37*
  - ✓ *“Let us not sleep as others do. Let us keep awake and be sober.” 1 Thessalonians 5:6*
  - ✓ *“Every person should live every day as if it was his last!”*
- *The Christian Must Be on the Watch Against False Teachers.*

*Acts 20:29-31 “Grievous wolves will invade the flock from outside and inside men will speak perverse things...therefore, watch!”*

- *As the Christian Must Watch for Jesus Christ, Let Us Not Forget that Jesus Christ is Watching Us!*

*“I have not found your works perfect” says the Risen Christ, “In the sight of my God!”*

- ✓ *Christ is looking for something from us. (Our love, loyalty and service)*
- ✓ *The things a man must do lies in his hands...He must make the decision to do the works of Christ!*

*From Everyone of Us Jesus Christ is Looking for Something; and for Every One of Us There is Something to Do.*

*You can’t do anything...by being asleep at the wheel...by not being alert to the sounds and preempted actions of the enemy! Satan is the enemy; God expects us to be ready for battle with this abuser of the saints.*

*Are you a willing vessel? He’s watching to see what you decide.*

### *Identification of the Risen Christ....in Two (2) Phrases:*

#### *1. He who has the 7 spirits of God!*

*(Prophecy) Holy Spirit and the 7 fold gifts.*

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*Isaiah 11:2 reads, And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

*1 — the Spirit of the Lord;*

*2 — the Spirit of wisdom;*

*3 — the Spirit of understanding;*

*4 — the Spirit of counsel;*

*5 — the Spirit of might;*

*6 — the Spirit of knowledge;*

*7 — and the Spirit of the fear of the LORD.*

*Note: These represent the completed work of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit = Stands before the Throne with the gifts given to the servants of God.*

#### *2. He is He who has the 7 stars*

*---The whole church...and their angels.*

*Jesus is the central theme of the Church...should be ours!*

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*The Risen Christ says,*

*“You are a church that has a reputation for life....but, you are spiritually dead!”*

### ***What does He mean?***

- ***A church with no questioning minds.***  
*A church that is satisfied with where they are is a church that fails to have thinkers (those with searching minds).  
Satisfied with mediocrity and no growth. Satisfied with status quo; satisfied by being saved in their own eyes.*
  - ***A Church that was untroubled by any attack from the outside, neither by heathen nor by the Jews.***  
*“It was so lifeless that it was not worth attacking.”  
“They had the form of godliness by denied the power thereof.” 2 Tim. 3:5 THIS IS AN EPIDEMIC OF THE MODERN CHURCH.*
  - ***A truly vital church will always be under attack!***  
*“Woe unto you,” said Jesus, “when all men speak well of you.” Luke 6:26*
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### ***Imperative of the Lord.....Sardis!***

- ***Remember***
  - ***Repent***
  - ***Keep the commands of the gospel***
  - ***Watch...***  
*---He who walks hand-in-hand with Christ cannot be taken unawares by His coming.....You know when He is getting ready!*
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### ***Even in Sardis, there are a faithful few ....***

#### ***Those who have not soiled their garments.***

*Note: Soiled garments are dirty garments. It means there are suspicious stains and it is obvious that someone who has soiled garments has been in the pigpen somewhere. Smell and look cause mama and Jesus to question your appearance and actions.*

***(Keep your garments washed in the blood)....***

***No secret sins that you have failed to acknowledge to God!***

***Notice I said to God...There are some things that you acknowledge to God; ask forgiveness and Him alone!***

### ***The Promise to those who overcome....***

- ***Clothed with white raiment***  
*White robes....stands for festivity, victory, purity and the resurrection bodies.*
  - ✓ *Festivity—white robes at the banquet table of the Lord.*

- ✓ *Victory—when there was a triumph by Rome, the city celebrated (all citizens wore white robes)*

*The city was called urba candida “the city in white”.*

- ✓ *Color of Purity—Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.*
- ✓ *Resurrection bodies—whiteness of light is the garment of God Himself. We will share it with Him.*

- ***Names will not be wiped out of the Book of Life.***

*Book of Life is a conception that occurs often in the Bible...*

*It is more than just a conception...it is a truth!*

- ✓ *Moses was willing to be wiped out of the book...if...(Exodus 32:32,33)*
- ✓ *David’s hope was that the wicked will be blotted out (Psalm 69:28)*
- ✓ *In time of judgment those who are written in the book will be delivered (Daniel 12:1)*
- ✓ *Fellow laborers with Paul are written in the Book of Life (Philippians 4:3)*
- ✓ *He who is not written in the Book of Life is cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:15)*
- ✓ *Only those who are written in the Lambs Book of Life shall enter into blessedness (Rev. 21:27)*

*In ancient world a king kept a register of his citizens. When a man committed a crime against the state and was found guilty....when he died, his name was erased from that register.*

***Possibility of Three (3) Different Sets of Books God will Judge from:***

- 1. Book of Man’s Works*
- 2. Book of Life*
- 3. Lamb’s Book of Life*

***Three Reasons for one having his name blotted out of the Book of Life:***

- 1. For Sinning Against God*
- 2. For Not being clothed in the righteousness of Christ (New Birth)*
- 3. For Taking Away from the Words of the Book of this Prophecy*

- ***Jesus Christ will confess their names before His Father and the Angels.***

*Jesus’ promise....”If a man confessed Jesus before men, He would confess him before His Father; and if a man denied him before men, He would deny him before the Father.” Matthew 10:32, 33....Luke 12:8, 9*

***Jesus Christ is Truth!...He is Lord!...He is worthy to be praised!***