



# **"The Message to the Church at Sardis"**

Revelation 3:1-3

August 3, 2025

## **INTRODUCTION:**

"1 **And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. 'I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. 4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. 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.'**" [Rev 3:1-6 ESV]

### **1. The problem of living off a past \_\_\_\_\_.**

#### **1) The City of Sardis.**

**To the angel of the church "in Sardis." v1**

- (1) ...was a significant city located on the crossroads of great Empires.
- (2) ...was located at the western end of the 1,677 mile Persian Royal Road which began in Susa.
- (3) ...was the capitol of Lydia in the 7th to 6th Century BC and fought over by Persians & Greeks.
- (4) ...became the capitol for the Greek Seleucids followed by the Attalids.
- (5) ...was taken over by the Romans in 130 BC.
- (6) ...was inundated with Greco-Roman and eastern deities.
- (7) ...was wealthy with textile manufacturing, dye industry, and jewelry trade.

#### **2) To the angel of the church of Sardis.**

**"To the angel" of the church. v1**

- (1) **Angels \_\_\_\_\_ the word of God.**

🔊 "19 Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. **The law was given through angels** and entrusted to a mediator." [Gal 3:19 NIV]

- (2) **Fallen angels \_\_\_\_\_ false doctrine.**

🔊 "1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **deceitful spirits** and **doctrines of demons**," [1Ti 4:1 NASB95]

#### **3) Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the communication of God's will and power to do God's work.**

**"He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, says this: v1**

- (1) **Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ to send the Helper to enable us.**

🔊 "7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper** will not come to you; but if I go, **I will send Him to you.**" [Jhn 16:7 NASB95]

- (2) **The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom and strength to do God's will.**

🔊 "13 "But when He, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, He **will guide you** into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come." [Jhn 16:13 NASB95]

**(3) Jesus has authority over the \_\_\_\_\_ mediators of the churches.**

🕯 "20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: **the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches**, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches." [Rev 1:20 NASB95]

🕯 "1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: **The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand**, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:" [Rev 2:1 NASB95]

**4) Jesus knows their works do not match their former \_\_\_\_\_.**

**"I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. v1**

**(1) You have no spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ but live off of your past reputation.**

🕯 "27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. 28 "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness." [Mat 23:27-28 NASB95]

🕯 "A church is in danger when it begins to worship its own past...when it is more concerned with forms than with life... when it loves systems more than it loves Jesus Christ... when it is more concerned with material things than with spiritual things. Barclay Lts to the 7 Churches pg 87-88

**(2) Do not become \_\_\_\_\_ by the deceitfulness of sin.**

🕯 "13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is [still] called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." [Heb 3:13 NASB95]

**(3) Spiritual dullness can bring about the sin of \_\_\_\_\_.**

🕯 "15 while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME." ... 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 [So] we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief." [Heb 3:15, 18-19 NASB95]

🕯 "3 "Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" [Num 14:3 NASB95]

**2. How to avoid spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1) Wake up from your spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.**

✳ **The hour has come for us to wake from our \_\_\_\_\_ and put on Christ. you are dead. 2 Wake up, v2**

🕯 "11 Besides this you know the time, that **the hour has come for you to wake from sleep**. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." [Rom 13:11-14 ESV]

**2) Strengthen your \_\_\_\_\_ of love, service, faith, and perseverance. v2**

✳ **Gain \_\_\_\_\_ in the word of righteousness and \_\_\_\_\_ distinguishing good from evil. and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. v2**

🕯 "13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love." [1Co 16:13-14 ESV]

🕯 "11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil." [Heb 5:11-14 ESV]

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## **3) Obey three \_\_\_\_\_ for deliverance from sin leading to death. v3**

**"16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life--to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death." [1Jo 5:17 ESV]**

### **(1) Recall how you \_\_\_\_\_ [aorist] and \_\_\_\_\_ [perfect] the gospel by faith.**

**Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. v3**

Remember your faith in the gospel translates from \_\_\_\_\_ of sin to \_\_\_\_\_ from sin.

"5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. 6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him," [Col 2:5-6 ESV]

### **(2) Keep the faith in the \_\_\_\_\_ things mentioned in verse 2. v3**

**Keep it, and repent. v3**

"5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:" [1Jo 2:5 ESV]

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." [2Ti 4:7 ESV]

### **(3) Repentance involves a change of our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to conform to God's word. and repent. v3**

"10 For the sorrow that is according to [the will of] God produces a repentance without regret, [leading] to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death." [2Co 7:10 NASB95]

## **3. The consequences of not waking up.**

### **1) Keep \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_.**

**If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. v3**

"6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but **let us keep awake and be sober**. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ," [1Th 5:6-9 ESV]

### **2) The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ judgment comes like a thief in the night bringing sudden destruction. I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. v3**

"2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness." [1Th 5:2-5 ESV]