

The Year of the Revelation

~ Sardis - The Sleeping or Unaware Church, Pt 1 ~

I. Jesus - His Description

- A. A resurrected, living Lord (has)
- B. The Spirits - Holy Spirit - Birthed (says)
and empowers the church
- C. Stars - Who leads His church

II. No Word of Commendation -

III. The Condition and Warning

- A. You have a name that you are alive, and you are dead!

*The church parallels the city. *

Sardis at one time was one of the most impressive cities in the world, capital of the Lydian Kingdom. It was located in a place that made it impregnable and inaccessible. It was rich with gold from the sands on the shore of the Pactolus River.

* It had fallen into decay and ruins.

*Two times the city had been captured and fallen - one time because the sentries failed to do their jobs. They had either gone to sleep or failed to warn the people. A second time because they were too lazy to fight the enemy.

The church at this time was established, no longer persecuted, but was dead and dying. The membership had grown complacent and lazy. The church had failed to watch so the enemy had made his way in!

* Non-Persecuted Church - No invasion into the enemy's territory!

"The unsaved of Sardis saw the church as a respectable group who was neither dangerous nor desirable. They were decent people with a dying witness and a decaying ministry!" [Wiersbe]

- B. Jesus' Words and Warning -

1. "Wake up." "Be alert."
2. Strengthen the things that remain (that were about to die.)

How? Through repentance - Allowing the Holy Spirit to infuse life into the church.

(a) Holy Spirit started the church at Pentecost.

(b) When the Holy Spirit is grieved or quenched, the church loses its life and power.
To grieve the Holy Spirit - to do something that God doesn't want you to do (sin.)
To quench the Holy Spirit - to fail to do something the Spirit prompts you to do.

(c) When sin is confessed and church members get right with God and one another - The Holy Spirit gives life!

(d) Do not die before you are dead. —→ A call to finish the race and complete the course!

(e) If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief - you will not know the hour!

IV. His Promise to the Overcomers

- A. Be clothed in white garments. (Royalty, Purity, Priesthood)
- B. I will not erase his name from the Book of Life.
- C. I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.