

## **The Church at Sardis**

### *The Reformed Church*

- I.** Sardis: “those escaping” (Rev. 3:1-6).
  1. Wealthy commercial trade center.
  2. Predicts the Protestant Reformation and all the organizations that sprung from the movement: between 30,000 to 40,000+ denominations.
  3. The Reformation was activated by the Gutenberg Press when it published the Bible about, 1450AD.
  4. A political, economic, and religious rebellion against the Roman Catholic Church.
  5. They broke away, but not far enough.
- II.** Sardis is contrasted to the Image of judgment (v. 1).
  1. “The one having the seven Spirits of God”.
    - 1) The Holy Spirit before the Father’s Throne (Zech. 4:2, 6, 10; Rev. 5:6).
    - 2) Most likely: the number seven refers to the Holy Spirit’s seven ministries to the Church: Reproving, regeneration, baptism, indwelling, filling, walking by the Spirit, and the leading by the Spirit.
  2. Sardis will not rely upon the Holy Spirit to do their works: self-effort.
    - 3) “The one having the seven stars” (*cf.* 1:16, 20).
    - 4) The pastor(s) will neglect their subordination to the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4).
- III.** Christ’s admonition to Sardis
  1. “I know your works and you have a name”.
    - 1) They have a reputation for religious works.
    - 2) They are alive physically, while being dead spiritually.
  2. “Begin to watch”, the pastor(s) was not vigilant detecting doctrinal error (Acts 20:31; 28-30).
  3. They did not teach the Christian life (Eph. 4:12).
  4. Those who do not change their mind are threatened with being on earth till the Second Coming “thief in the night” (Mt. 24:42-51 *cf.* Tit. 2:13; Phil. 3:20).
- IV.** Reformed Theology—the T.U.L.I.P. (five-point Calvinism).