

Book of Revelation, part 28
The Church at Sardis

I. The Church at Sardis—*those escaping* (Rev. 3:1-6).

1. Wealthy commercial trade center, 30 miles SE of Thyatira.
2. Prophetically represents the reformation: protestant movement.
3. Rebellion against the dominate economic, political, and religious structure in Europe and Asia Minor—the Roman Catholic Church.
4. Historical background to the Reformation:
 - 1) Little Ice Age about 1200 to 1600 AD.
 - 2) Mostly illiterate population.
 - 3) Gutenberg Press about 1450 AD, vulgate Latin Bible.
 - 4) Black Death, kills about 1/3 of the population in Europe.
 - 5) Sweating sickness, syphilis, immorality, and reaction to that immorality.
 - 6) Martin Luther—95 Theses, 1517 AD.
 - i. Justification by faith in Jesus, not by “charitable acts.”
 - ii. Consubstantiation, the spirit of Christ is present in the Eucharist (*cf. text 1 Cor. 11:24*).
 - iii. John Calvin, John Knox, Johnathan Edwards, John Newton, John MacArthur.
 - 7) Reform theology is gaining popularity currently.
 - i. Covenant theology, a philosophy of Biblical history.
 - ii. Lordship salvation, the devil is in the detail.
 - iii. Calvin TULIP, for example “L” for limited atonement (*cf. 1 Jn. 2:2*).
 - iv. Misrepresent election (*cf. 1 Cor. 6:11*).
 - v. Buzzwords: Tulip, Lordship, 5-point Calvinism, “easy believism”, discipleship, they hate dispensationalism.

II. The church a Sardis contrasted to the Image of Christ (Rev. 3:1).

1. “Having the seven Spirits of God” (Rev. 5:6).
 - 1) The Holy Spirit shares the same essence with the Son (*cf. Jn. 10:28-30*).
 - 2) The Holy Spirit has the same divine nature as Christ.
 - 3) The Holy Spirit is deity (Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Cor. 12:13, 18).
 - 4) The Holy Spirit ministers to the churches, hence seven Spirits.
2. “...and the seven stars..”, holding the pastor accountable (Rev. 1:16, 20; Heb. 13:17).
3. “...I know your works.”
 - 1) Name—they have a reputation.
 - 2) They are alive physically while dead spiritually.