

Book of Revelation, part 29

The Church at Sardis

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

1. The church at Sardis contrasted to the Image of Christ (Rev. 3:1).
 2. “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 each of the churches, hence seven Spirits—individualized.
 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.

II. “You are to be watching and begin to establish the things/works that are beginning to die” (Rev. 3:2).

1. No positive commendation (cf. 2:2, 10, 13, 19).
2. A “valuable” counterfeit is close to the real thing as to be able to mislead undiscerning ones (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15).
3. The reformers escaped Catholicism, but did not go far enough.

III. “For I have not found your works to be complete before the presence of My God” (Rev. 3:2).

1. Their works appear worthy, but lack Divine enabling.
2. Close to the truth is not acceptable to the Father.
3. Sincerity is not the measure; Scripture is the measure.

IV. “Therefore, be remembering ... begin to change your mind ... if not ... I will come as a thief in the night” (Rev. 3:3).

1. Conditional: possible but not probable.
2. “Thief in the night” is a reference to Christ’s Second Coming in judgment (Mt. 24:36-44; Lu. 12:34; 1 Thes. 5:1-7; 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 16:15).
3. “Thief” is a contrast to the way Christians are to view the Rapture—intense eager anticipation (Rom. 8:19; Phil. 3:20).