



CHURCHES

OF REVELATION

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF THE ROMAN PROVINCE OF ASIA





*Mostly
Dead*

SARDIS

Lydian Empire







Sardis

Revelation 3:1 (ESV)

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 [lit. “the name”] of being alive, but you are dead.”



"It is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me."

(1 Corinthians 4:2-4)



“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.” (Romans 12:2-3; NIV)



**A Christian community might be
declared spiritually dead because its
habitual practice of and unrepentant
indulgence in SIN.**



Revelation 3:4-5 (ESV)

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...



“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus... Offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.” **(Romans 6:11, 13)**

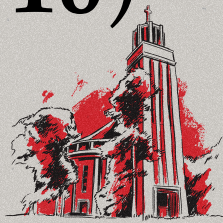


“You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you.”

(1 John 3:5-7)



“No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God.” (1 John 3:9-10)



**A church Christ would declare “dead”
is a Christian community devoid of
God’s LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT.**



“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” **(John 5:24)**



“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

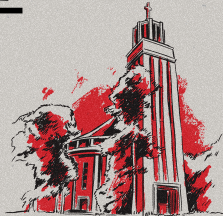


“I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet
shall he live, and everyone who lives and
believes in me shall never die.”

(John 11:25-26)



The spiritual pulse of a church is not determined by the congregation's style, music, or demeanor. The spiritual liveliness of a church is discerned by a congregation's welcome of, dependence upon, and surrender to the HOLY SPIRIT'S WORKING.



“Unless the Lord YHWH builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.”
(Psalm 127:1)



**Are you bearing the Spirit of God, the
unquenchable, victorious Life that
brought Jesus forth from the grave, in
a vain or empty manner?**



Revelation 3:5-6 (ESV)

5 The one who conquers... 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.'



“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.”

(John 5:25-26)



Revelation 3:2-3 (ESV)

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.



“The Lord would not exhort to repentance,
if it were not that He promises pardon and
mercy to the penitent.” (Cyprian)

