

## SARDIS: SLEEPY, SILENT, AND SOILED - Rev 3:1-6

032121P

### INTRODUCTION

1. Sardis - atop 1,500 ft butte; that impregnable: false security, careless
2. Problems arise from outside but the problem in Sardis is in Sardis Rv 3:1-6

#### 1st: The Address and the Author

1. Supernatural character of church - 2 references: *the angel & the 7 stars*. Sardis is comatose - needs supernatural revitalization by Jesus.
  - i. giver of HS - 1:4 HS [Lk 11:13].
  - ii. giver of angelic help - 1:16,v20 [Hb 1:14]
2. By profiling the supernatural, our active obedience is not minimized

#### 2nd: The Evaluation of The Spiritual Condition of Sardis

1. *I know your deeds - I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God*. Jesus underscores *deeds* in Eph, Thyatira & Sardis - churches that need to get active; bear fruit of faith; deeds appropriate to repentance.
  - i. *completed* - perfected, matured
  - ii. *in the sight of My God* - Jesus, Mediator, sanctifying His Bride
    - a. v5 - Jesus to confess name *before My Father & His angels*. Rv 21
    - b. Jesus mediates; HS effects; to glory of Father.
    - c. Jesus looks at church in relation to His return: sees Sardis in need of sanctification.
2. Sardis was at peace: peace of a cemetery: *dead* - altho v4: *a few people are worthy*. Sardis not get attention of pagans or opposition from Jews.

#### 3rd: Words of Praise or Rebuke

1. praise - *you have a name that you are alive* - reputation: among whom?
  - i. a *name* among pagans?
  - ii. a *name* among other churches?
2. Their *name* is "*you are alive*" = nominalism [in name only], but not what Jesus sees. Sardis is misnamed. *Name* is emphasized: v1, v4 *people* = "names" in Grk, v5 *name* in bk of life & confess *name* before Father: what commandment is in view? IIIrd - taking the name of Lord in vain.
3. v4 - the majority: *few not soiled garments* => most *soiled garments*
  - i. *soil* = defile, pollute = moral compromise [1C 8:7; Rv 14:4]
  - ii. Tit 1:15-16 - *defiled* [syn of *soiled*] - profess [a name] but w/o deeds. 2:1-10 describes behavior & rlnshps - Tit 2:10b-15
    - a. garment of life not *adorn* doctrine of God as *Savior*
    - b. Did they adorn themselves w/ a "Jesus" who is other than *Savior*?

#### 4th: Words of Exhortation

1. v2-3 *wake up* [2x]: command [v2] & threat [v3]. Open eyes to see what? *thgs that are about to die - deeds not completed* - calls to revitalization; *what you have received & heard* - tradition - [1C 15:1-5; 1C 11:23]
2. Commands: *wake up; strengthen; remember; keep - and repent*. Question: what is the problem in Sardis? [Hint - ans in v5].
3. Threat: v3b Jesus coming *as a thief* - Mt 24:42-46 [1Th 5:2; 2Pt 3:10] Rv 16:15 - is Rv 3:3 the 2nd Coming? Yes & no.

## SARDIS: SLEEPY, SILENT, AND SOILED - Rev 3:1-6

032121P

- i. Yes - we live in rln to 2nd coming [Rv 3:10-11]; No, b/c Sardis is to repent & complete her deeds. This impending coming has a bearing on the 2nd coming - it will effect a judgment, distinction - separating the *you* [v3] who are dead; from the *few* [v4] who are worthy.
- ii. Lex Talionis: too sleepy to produce works? You'll come to judgment w/o works - 1T 5:24-25

### 5th: Promise to the Overcomer

1. v-4-5 *thus* - promised *white* [2x - pure] *garments* = res body - 7:13-14
  - i. disembodied given res bodies - seen robed = promise of res body
  - ii. *they will walk* = res life - b/c *they are worthy* - present walk corresponds to reality of res life [Eph 4:1].
2. *not erase name from book of life* - [no never] - curse on Xns in synagogues in 90s AD: "let Xns & the heretics perish in a moment, let them be blotted out of the book of life & let them not be written w/ the righteous."
  - i. not = threat of lose salvation, but assures those who walk *worthy* - a correlation tw/ worthy walk & name written [Rv 17:8]
3. *I will confess his name before Father & angels.* Lk 12:8-9. Sardis was not confessing Jesus' name - but Jesus will confess the names of those who wake up. Their problem, like Eph: they are not witnessing, confessing & therefore threatened correspondingly - Jesus will not confess them.
4. Let us not be concerned for the name given to us by men, but by Jesus - that He will confess our name at His coming. Let us confess/witness His name!
5. *He who has an ear, let him hear what teh Spirit says to the churches.*