

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## 6. The Church in Sardis



### Introduction

We have been looking at the letters given by Jesus to the 7 Churches. Many have thought that these represent periods of time during the past 2000 years of Church history. To study them in this manner is very interesting, but they also portray different situations in the Church today. This is what we will focus on in these studies, and also consider how we can apply Jesus' messages to our own lives.

### Scripture Reading: Revelation 3:1-6



Jesus has no commendation for this church. How sad! Describe the condition in the church in Sardis. Revelation 3:1-2

*(They had a good reputation, but in Jesus' eyes they were dead, or on the point of death. He says that their deeds were not complete.)*



When Jesus began his letter he referred to himself as holding the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. What do these refer to? Revelation 1:4, 20, 4:5, Isaiah 11:2

*(The seven spirits refer to 7 different operations of the Holy Spirit. The 7 stars are the 7 messengers to the churches.)*



The church in Sardis had activity, but was on the point of death. It is so easy for a church to become like this! We can have lots of activity but without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. What causes a Church (and us personally) to become like this? See 2 Timothy 3:4-5

*(Perhaps the greatest reason is lack of prayer. Other reasons which also lead to lack of prayer are: sin, living for pleasure, laziness etc.)*



Although the church was at the point of death, Jesus tells them they could be revived. What did they need to do? v3 What is true repentance according to the following verses? Acts 26:20, 2 Corinthians 7:10

*(They needed to remember what they had received and heard and repent. True repentance is seen by our actions – we turn around and do those things we have failed to do previously.)*



There were some in Sardis who were alive! In what area of your life do you need to overcome so that you will stay 'alive'?



Jesus promised the over-comers that he would never blot out their names from the Book of Life: What is this book? How can we be sure our name will never be blotted out? Revelation 3:5, 20:15, 21:27, Exodus 32:31-33, Psalm 9:5, Daniel 12:1

*(This is a Book where God has recorded all the names of those who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb and belong to his Kingdom. God told Moses if anyone lived in sin they would have their name blotted out. However we see in Revelation 3 that if anyone repents and walks in obedience to God, his name will never be blotted out.)*

## **Conclusion**

Someone has said: "It is easy to begin the Christian life well, but it is more difficult to finish well." When we live in a society that is prosperous and comfortable it is so easy to slacken in prayer and become like the Christians in Sardis. Let us realize that activity is not necessarily 'life'. 'Life' only comes when we live prayerfully depending on the power of the Spirit of God.