

THE SEVEN LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH UNTIL AND BEFORE HE RETURNS FOR US.

REVELATION 3:1-6
Recording Number JHX-484 May 10, 2020

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:
**“MY DEAR SARDIS,
I’VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER”**
Endurance. Holiness. Repentance. Revival

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:
The Church, End Times, Repentance, Revival, Rapture.

Revelation 3:1-6

“And to the **angel** (not with wings) of the church in **Sardis** write, “These things says He who has **the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars**: ‘I know your works, **that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.** **2** Be **watchful**, and **strengthen** the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works **perfect** before God. **3** (a) **Remember** therefore (b) **how you have received and** (c) **heard; hold fast and repent.** Therefore if you will not watch, I will **come upon you as a thief**, and **you will not know** what hour I will come upon you. **4** You have **a few names** even in Sardis who have not **defiled** their garments; and they shall **walk with Me in white**, for they are **worthy.** **5** He who overcomes **shall be clothed** in white garments, and I will **not blot out his name from the Book of Life**; but 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 church(es).” ’

What of Sardis in History?

Located in the region of then Asia Minor, in what is Turkey today, This ancient city was host to the Great Merchants of Westward trade routes. It was in Sardis that the “Royal Persian Trade Route.” Terminated

It was, and is a naturally beautiful place. It’s topography looks very much like the ancient city of Chino Hills - - It had significant natural resources chief of them being Gold. Gold was so plentiful there that the river (a creek) that flowed thru the city center would perpetually deposit gold dust at its bottom and shore.

This is where coins were first minted in the ancient world. In fact from about 560bc to about 546bc Sardis was ruled by the King of Lydia, King Croesus, who was renowned for his great wealth until defeated by the Persians and made a slave.

At the time of Jesus' Letter to Sardis,

<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-sardis-sardes-ruins-of-the-ancient-greek-city-now-in-manisa-province-131472849.html>

<https://www.bibleplaces.com/sardis/>

<http://ivehadanepiphany.blogspot.com/2016/08/to-church-in-sardis.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_churches_at_Sardis

The Temple of Cybal, Artemis, Diana

It was King Creosus who had personally funded the construction of The Temple of Artemis (Diana) in Sardis which, when completed became one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Sardis was a center for the traffic of goods and ideas between Mesopotamia and the Greek Ionian world.

It is important to note as it relates to the study that

Sardis like all other Roman cities and outposts had a ledger or a list of the names of its citizens near the gate or gates of the city's entrance. Call it a passport gate if you would, of names of those citizens approved to enter in and out of the city.

Notice with me that **this is** the Book of Revelation.

This is not the Book of Revelation(s)

This is God's last word to the **Nations**. / This is God's last word to **Israel**.

This is God's last word to His **Church**. / This is God's last word to **You**.

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

This is why Jesus Christ alone can say;

Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

And again...

Revelation 22:12-13

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

God had a **“Due Date”** for all of Mankind in Christ Jesus!

Galatians 4:4-5

But when **the fullness of the time** had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

(this “due date” is “your date” – when you hear the message of Jesus Christ, The Revelation of His Person, His Mission, His Glory!)

MY DEAR SARDIS, I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

1.) To remind you that **I know all things** vs.1

“And to the **angel** (not with wings) of the church in **Sardis** write, “These things says He who has **the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars**: ‘I know your works, **that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.**”

>>>>>>>>> Seven Spirits of God <<<<<<<<<

Revelation 5:6

And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, **having seven horns and seven eyes**, which are **the seven Spirits of God** sent out into all the earth.

Isaiah 11:1-2

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. **2** (1) The Spirit of **the LORD** shall rest upon Him, (2) The Spirit **of wisdom** and (3) **understanding**, (4) The Spirit **of counsel** and (5) **might**, (6) The Spirit **of knowledge** and (7) **of the fear** of the LORD.

>>>>>>>>> Seven Stars of God <<<<<<<<<

Revelation 1:16,20

He had in His right hand **seven stars**, out of His mouth went a sharp two- edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.... **:20** The mystery of the **seven stars** which you saw in My right hand, and the **seven golden lampstands**: The **seven stars are the angels of the seven churches**, and the **seven lampstands** which you saw **are the seven churches.**

**'I know your works,
that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.**

Name grk: **onoma**; you have a particular authority or reputation, a noted cause, you have a name, there are names among you. there are persons there. (a history).

**Jesus Knows the Name (Reputation) of Every Single Person
and the Name or Reputation of Every Single Church.**

Dead grk: **nekros**; a dead body or dead bodies, a corpse or corpse.

I Know By Seeing Everything About You.

I Know All Things -

Luke 8:17

For **nothing is secret** that will not be revealed, nor **anything hidden** that will not be **known** and come to light.

Hebrews 4:13

And there is **no creature hidden** from His **sight**, but all things are **naked and open** to the **eyes** of Him to whom we must give account.

MY DEAR SARDIS I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

2.) To remind you that **I see all things** vs.2-3

2a **Be watchful, and strengthen**
the things which **remain, that are** ready to die,

Watchful grk: **gregoreuo**, gray-gor-yoo'-o; to keep yourself awake, meaning literally or figuratively, to be vigilant, alert and watchful.

**Failing to be a "Watchful" Church, Their Christianity
had become Predictable and Mundane.**
(no longer vigilant, no longer alert, no longer watchful)

Strengthen grk: **sterizo**; to go around and shore up, re-establish, re- confirm, make resolute.

Remain grk: **loipoi**; things that are needful, things that matter, things that last, things that are unshakable, things that cannot fall down.

Publius Cornelius Tacitus

In the same year of 17 ad. twelve famous cities in the province of Asia were overwhelmed by an earthquake. Its occurrence at night increased the surprise and destruction. Open ground – the usual place for refuge on such occasions afforded no escape, because the earth parted and opened up and swallowed the fugitives. There are reports of mountains subsiding, of flat ground rising high up in the air, of fires bursting up and out among the debris. Sardis suffered worst and attracted most sympathy. - Tac. *Ann.* 2.47

You are ready to die,

You have been slowly dying, you have been dying for a long time and you are in fact at the point of death. – you're mostly dead.

“Someone Pull The Plug”

The death of a church // How does a church die?

The same way a **Nation** dies. The same way a **Company** dies.
The same way a **Family** dies. The same way a **Marriage** dies.
The same way **Faith** dies..

The way success is born, matures and dies.

Man, Movement, Method, Monument, Memorial

A dying or dead church is very; Self-Centered. Self-Impressed.
Self-Content. Self-Promoting

That Church Has Lost It's Prophetic Voice

The Return of Jesus Christ is No Longer Taught.
The Urgency to Reach **the Lost is No Longer a Priority.**

This is How You Spiritually Die.

You **stop** being **Watchful**. You **stop** **Strengthening**. You **stop** **Remembering**.
You **stop** **Holding On**. You **stop** **Repenting**. (*breathing*)

Verse 2b-3a

2b For I have not found your works perfect before God.
3 (a) Remember therefore (b) how you have received

Remember grk: mnemoneuo; to call to or up in the mind, to draw up as if from a well, to excavate - by taking what is on the bottom and bring it to the top and what is on the top and putting on the bottom.

I am almost speechless regarding this.

My life has been spoiled by the goodness of God. From the day I got saved, my Christian experience has been more than (2) lifetimes. From evangelist Greg Laurie that preached Christ to me to Pastor Chuck Smith who raised me up in the doctrines of God. **(a year after that God - would bring my wife Lisa into my life, that was 41 years ago)** From men who loved on me like a son, men like Dr. David Hocking, Chuck Missler, Tim Lahaye, Dr. Ed Hindson. Dr. John Walvoord. And the people – the people that I have met and the places I have gone. The ministries that have come out of this work, the people – all around the world! and my heart sings for what my God has done – “Great is His faithfulness O God”

Pew Potato’s / Clock Watchers / The Frozen Chosen (who needs them)
“They have arrived at being “Church” and being “Christian”

~~“Jack you’re just so lucky”~~

“I am blessed to live in a constant state of change. My life is never comfortable. I’ve become accustomed to not being in the same place again and again!”

These Dead Churches are So Comfortable that They are Not Open to change and to vision and to the generations that follow after them.

Verse 3b

and (c) heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore **if you will not watch,** I will **come upon you as a thief,** and **you will not know** what hour I will come upon you.

Heard grk: akouo; to listen with the ear, to hear with attention, to have intentions to gather with the ear all that you can.

Hold Fast grk: tereo; to grasp, grab hold of, lay a firm grip to what is slipping thru your hands. **{HISTORY IS HUMBLING / EYE OPENING TOO}**

Repent grk: metanoeo; to make a course correction, to reverse course to correct or to reverse one’s mind or purpose.

I will come upon you as a thief,
and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

This was a terrifying reminder the citizen of Sardines.

In the (2) two military campaigns that succeeded against Sardis – they both succeeded during the night while they were sleeping.

Jesus combines the 2 historical fears of those of ancient Sardis. He does this by reminding them of (1) that great **earthquake** and (2) When their great city (the Impregnable) fell to the Persians under **Cyrus** and again to **Antiochus III The Great**.

Sardis had a Saying;
“Remember – Like a Thief in the Night”

I See All Things -

Romans 13:11-14

And do this, knowing **the time**, that now it is **high time** to **awake** out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. **12 The night is far spent**, the day is **at hand**. (this is how) **13** Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Jesus Himself was under a Sense of Urgency

John 9:4

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day;
the night is coming when no one can work.

Luke 12:35-40

“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; **36** and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. **37** Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. **38** And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. **39** But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. **40** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Luke 12:45-46

45 But if that servant says in his heart, “My master is delaying his coming,” and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, **46** the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

2 Peter 3:3-5

knowing this first: that **scoffers** will come **in the last days**, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For this they **willfully** forget:

Let Me Tell You How God has Used this Global Quarantine

- (1) It has broken the habit of going to church.
- (2) When the church regathers, it will regather with those who want to be here, not because they should be here or ought to be here.

There is no greater energy on earth than the church when it is in love with Jesus – the world will never forget what hit them, Love Galore!!!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. **2** For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. **3** For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. **5** You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. **6** Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. **8** But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

MY DEAR SARDIS I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

3.) To remind you that **I do all things** vs.4-6

4 You have a few names even in **Sardis** who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. **5** He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments,

Jesus is making it clear that not everyone who attends the church in Sardis are saved people. It's a church but not everyone inside the church are of the church.

I Do All Things -

Defiled grk: **moluno**; a prim. word; *to stain, defile*: —defiled(2), soiled(1). **(I did wash you – I'll wash you again)**

Worthy grk: **axios**; to be of solid weight, ie. like the coins of Sardis – valuable by weight. **(I did redeem you – I'll redeem you again)**

Clothed grk: **periballo**; to throw around or wrap around, to put on, **(I did cover you – I'll cover you again)**

“Do you believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?”

or

“Do you believe that you believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior?”
One of these statements is a Reality. The Other is Wishful Thinking.

Verse 5b-6

:5b and I will **not blot out his name from the Book of Life**; but 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 church(es).” ’

Verse 5b

I will not blot out his name from The Book of Life

Revelation 21:27

But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, only those who are written in **The Lamb's Book of Life**

Depending upon the importance or value have a great event,

to ensure your seat, you must make a reservation - you must get your name written down. There's nothing worse than to have great excitement & expectations about some grand event only to arrive at the door to find out your name never made it on the list.

Revelation 20:11-12

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is **The Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

The Bible teaches us about another book in the day of judgment titled **The Lambs Book of Life**. Make no mistake, they're not the same books.

What is implied here is that there is a roll or a ledger in heaven. It suggests that every human being that has ever lived is recorded in **The Book of Life**.

Upon the day of judgment, Jesus Christ himself will open the books and there will be one book in particular that He will open. That book will be **The Book of Life**. That book will display places where names once were written. Names that are no longer there but have been blotted out.

Revelation 20:15

And anyone not found written in **The Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire.

Let me explain. - - Right now all of your names, all who are hearing my voice right now
– your names are written in **The Book of Life**. But not all of you have your name
written in **The Lambs Book of Life**

The issue is this - having been born into this world, into this life that God has given
you makes it your responsibility to call upon His son for the forgiveness of sins so that
you may be born again. The moment you are born again, born a second time God
takes your name that is in **The Book of Life** and he copies it over to **The Lambs Book
of Life**. All those whose names appear in **The Lambs Book of Life** are those who have
been born again by the power of God, their names are secured in **The Book of Life**.
These two books bear testimony of your salvation your conversion your new life in
Christ.

But tragically those whose names are blotted out of **The Book of Life**, whose names
are not found there on the day of judgment, is because their names never made it into
The Lambs Book of Life, they never accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior nor
were they ever Born Again and thus their name's removed.

End of Study

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