

# Sardis - Legendary Yet Lifeless

## Revelation 3:1-6

**Introduction:** The fifth church to receive a message from the risen Christ was Sardis. This church was the more famous of the churches and yet in reality was lifeless.

### A. Christ's Appearance to the Church

Our Lord is pictured as the One Who has the seven Spirits of God and seven stars.

### B. Characteristics of the City

Sardis means *the remains* and refers to the *sardine* stone. The city sat on a majestic 1,000 foot hill. The residents felt they were indestructible, but on two occasions they were defeated because they did not post watchmen during the night.

### C. Characteristics of the Church

The church enjoyed both security and activities near the pagan temple. But liveliness is not the same as life! It can be compared both with ancient Israel during Assyrian and Babylonian Captivities and with modern Israel's experience of the Holocaust. Prophetically this church represents the Protestant Church from 1517 AD to 1750 AD.

### D. Compliment to the Church

Christ compliments the church's works and reputation.

### E. Complaint to the Church

Jesus complains that the majority of the church are spiritually dead.

### F. Counsel to the Church

Christ counsels the church to be watchful and strengthen what remains.

### G. Covenant with the Church

Our Lord promises to the faithful that He would give them white raiments and not blot out their names from the Book of Life.



*Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God – Romans 10:17*