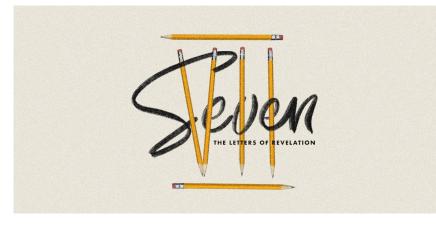
June 6 & 9, 2019



Death in Sardis: The Story Behind the Statistics

Revelation 3:1a (NIV) "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

I. The church at Sardis choose an <u>alternative</u> power source.

I Corinthians 4:20 (NIV) For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

Revelation 3:1b (NIV) I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

2. The church at Sardis had more professors than possessors.

- The measure of a church is not in the number of names on a roll but evidence of <u>spiritual</u> life in its members.
- The difference between dead and dry is <u>fruit</u>! (Revelation 3:2)
- 3. The church at Sardis was living off past glory.

- Remember that living off past glory is a surefire way to kill your future.
- Institutions protect the past while movements seize the future.
- When a church turns "in" you can turn out the lights!

Revelation 3:2-3 (NIV)

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

4. The church at Sardis fell asleep at the wheel!

• Remember that no part of your life is impenetrable.

I Peter 5:8 (NIV)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- Sleep is a result of a church that chooses comfort over calling.
- God uses suffering to wake the church up.
- Churches become a target of the enemy because they become a threat to the enemy!

Revelation 3:4-5 (NIV)

Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

5. The church at Sardis forgot the reward.

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