



## 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.*

### 1. The church at Sardis choose an alternative 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 spiritual life in its members.
- The difference between dead and dry is fruit! (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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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.