

# A Tale of Seven Churches: Sardis

Revelation 3:1-6





# Seven Churches Map



Sardis is located in what we know as modern Turkey. Again, on a circular route, Sardis was located about 50 miles south of Thyatira.



# Temple of Artemis



This is all that remains of what had been an incredible temple dedicated to the goddess Artemis.



# Historical Period



- There was no persecution of the church in Sardis because it was considered harmless.
- The Sardis Church represents the time period between 1500 and 1700.
- The beginning of the Sardis era in Church history coincides with the birth of the Protestant Church.
- Although the Reformation was a divine movement, the resulting institutions were man made and as such were flawed.



# I Know Your Deeds



- The local church, the local body of Jesus, will be examined to see what it accomplished while on this earth.
- What we do, why we do it, and how it is done will be taken into consideration by the risen Christ.
- It is the mystery of salvation that the things which do save us, grace and faith, will ultimately produce the things that will not save us, namely works and service.
- Could we as a Christian Church, a body of believers, be judged on the merits of our works if we had to be?



# Reputation



- There is nothing wrong with having a reputation of being alive!
- The church in Sardis had been a powerful witness in their community.
- No matter how great our church's reputation is or how wonderful our denomination is, each individual church has a responsibility to prove itself.
- The church in Sardis had had an excellent name at one time, but Jesus says, *"I know that you are dead."*
- The definition of dead is personal and subjective.



# What Makes A Church Dead



- **You are dead if you lack compassion.**
  - Faith that does not show itself by good deeds is no faith at all; a church that is dead does not care.
- **You are dead if you lack warmth.**
  - When there is no warmth or love at all in a church then that church is dead.
- **You are dead if you lack movement.**
  - Churches that refuse to change, update and modernize eventually die.



# Conclusion



- When people are dead, they usually stay that way and it is the same for churches.
- Jesus tells the church in Sardis to do three things:
  - Wake up!
  - Strengthen what little remains.
  - Go back to what you first heard and believed.
- If Jesus was to look down and write a letter to Grace Fellowship, what would He tell us?