

Rev 3:1-6 **¶**And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ¶These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: ¶know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ²Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³Remember therefore how you have received and 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. ⁴You 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. ⁵He 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 churches.+

1. Sardis . was a dead church with a faithful remnant

Church ruins in Sardis



2. Sardis did not live up to its reputation

- “ It had a reputation that it was alive.
- “ Most churches are born in a time of revival.
- “ Later the movement often becomes a monument.
- “ Sardis was actually dead.

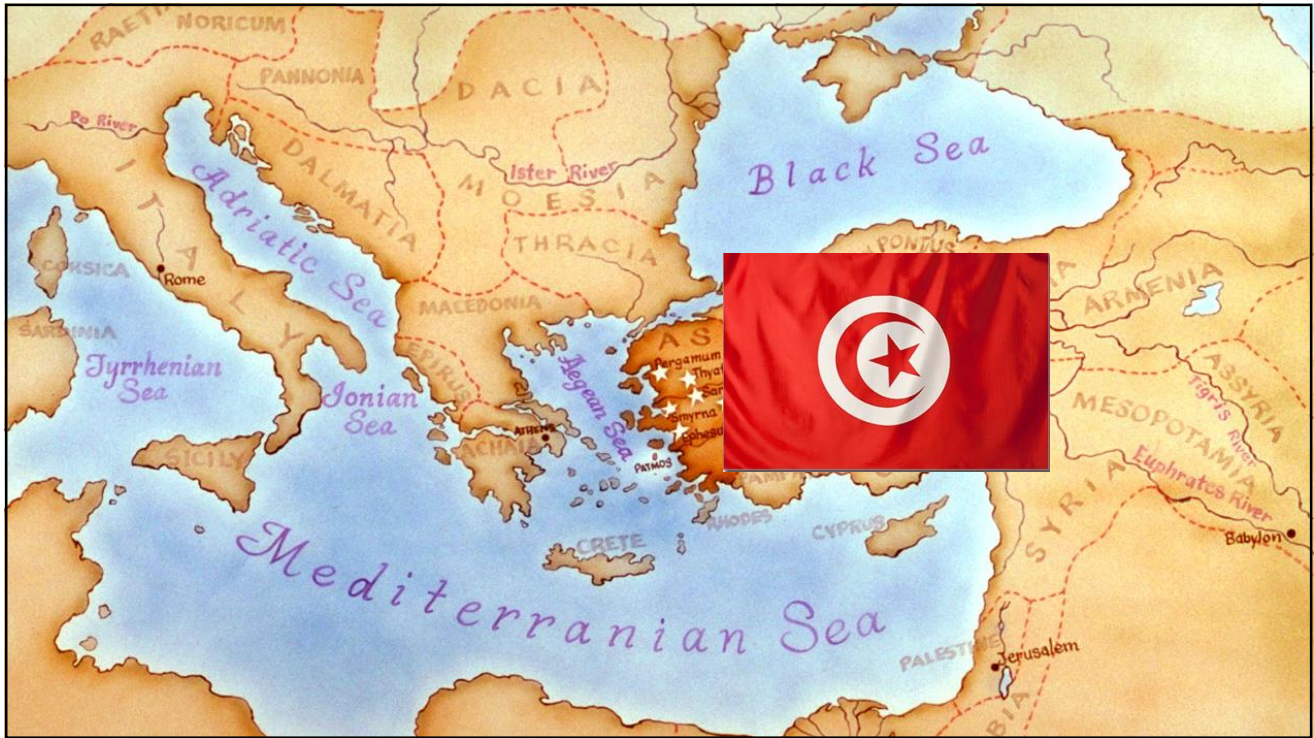


%The Sardis congregation's good works were merely the grave clothes of the unregenerate. The spiritual zombies populating the Sardis church were living a lie.+ John MacArthur

Matt 21:18-19 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. ¹⁹And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, %Let no fruit grow on you ever again.+ Immediately the fig tree withered away.

Matt 13:24-30 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: **¶**The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. ²⁷So the servants of the owner came and said to him, **¶**Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?**¶**²⁸He said to them, **¶**An enemy has done this.**¶**The servants said to him, **¶**Do you want us then to go and gather them up?**¶**²⁹But he said, **¶**No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **¶**First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.**¶**







Jude 12-13 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; ¹³raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

3. Though dead, it did have some life in it.

Rev 3:2,4 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ã 4You 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.

- “ The living remnant needed to strengthen what remained
- “ They needed to hold fast, repent, and watch

Heb 6:10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Jude 23 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

4. Does Jesus ~~blot~~ names out of the Book of Life?+

Rev 3:5 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.

“ He does blot out the names of the wicked

- Wicked Amalek: Ex 17:4, Deut 25:19
- Those who sin against the Lord: Ex 32:33
- The memory of the wicked will rot: Prov 10:7
- ~~“I never knew you”~~: Mt 7:23

Ps 69:28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living and not be written with the righteous.

Rev 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

“ He does not blot out the names of the righteous

Mal 3:16 So a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name.

Dan 12:3 Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

Lk 10:20 rejoice that your names are written in heaven

Heb 13:5 For He Himself has said, %will never leave you nor forsake you.+

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Matthew 13:28-30 He said to them, "An enemy has done this." The servants said to him, "Do you want us then to go and gather them up?" ²⁹But he said, "No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, first gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Philadelphia — the church with an open door



Philadelphia - 3:7-13:

É When God opens a door, no one can shut it

É The faithful will shine

É This church will be kept from the tribulation

É Jesus warned them of His coming

Daniel 9:27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.

Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! For that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it; and it *is* the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

Matthew 24:21-22 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Laodicea – the luke-warm church



Laodicea - 3:14-22:

- É Their standing in the middle was worse than taking a side
- É They were prideful
- É They did not value the valuable
- É Jesus was not a member of this church

Luke 13:34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen *gathers* her brood under *her* wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵See! Your house is left to you desolate;

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.