

Revelation 2- The 7 Churches

The Church of Sardis

- This city is 30 miles south of Thyatira and is the capital of Lydia
- The city was thought to be impregnable but Cyrus the Great captured it by following a secret path up the cliff and overthrowing the city
- Coins were first minted here, known for wealth and opulence, flourishing carpet industry
- Sardis means “remnant” (those who have escaped)
- Symbolizes the church age from 1500-1700 AD, the Reformation Church

1) **The Counselor 3:1**

- “hath the seven spirits...” = deity
- “seven stars” – references the churches and pastors of Asia and the fact that Jesus is the power of the churches still at this point in time and in this place

2) **The Commendation 3:4** “I know thy works....” (told to each of the 7 churches)

- “not defiled their garments” = Some were still holding the truth
- “walk with me in white” = These are truly _____ believers
- God always has his _____ – in every age, every church, every church age (1 Kings 19:10, Rom 11:5)

3) **The Condemnation 3:1**

- “thou hast a name that thou livest but art dead...: = They have a name they follow but they are as spiritually dead as the “catholic church” (Thyatira)
- Pictures _____ – J Vernon McGhee “The word to Sardis proves that the Reformation was not a restoration to the NT ideal church”.

4) **The Counsel 3:2-3**

- “be watchful” = _____ did find and rediscover many Bible doctrines

- “works not perfect” = weak _____, starting to depart from true doctrines of faith
- “Remember” = The Word of God is the _____ we are to follow, not the words or writings of man! – 1 Tim 4:6, 6:3-5, 6:19-21, 2 Tim 1:13-14, 3:14
- “as a thief” = a direct reference to the _____ (1 Thess 5:4)
- Implies the Sardis church will be spiritually dead or weak in discernment

5) The Challenge 3:5-6

- “not blot out his name out of the book” = English literary devise called “litotes” – expressing the affirmative with the negative (ex: that is Not Bad) See also 17:8
- These names will remain in the Book of Life
 - teaches _____
- These names will be confessed before the Father
- This challenge is to all churches in all ages