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 **To the Church in Sardis<Rev 3:1-6>**

1. And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, (Jer 17:7-13) that thou hast a name that thou livest, (Rev 17:3-4) and art dead. (1Ti 5:6/Lk 8:14)
2. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.(Mic 7:1-4)
3. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. (Rev 16:15/1Ti 5:1-8)
4. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.(Rev 7:4/Isa 61:10-11)
5. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, (Ex 32:31-35) but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. (Php 4:3-4/Lk 10:19-20)
6. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. (Mk 4:22-23)

The Church in Sardis looked fine on the outside but, inside, was filled with those who have gone away from the truth due to their unwholesome acts, those who live with decent positions and names but are spiritually dead; the spirits of its members became dark as well. Here, the people who have living names but are dead are those who pursue uncharacteristically overflowing respect, complacency and vanity (1Ti 5:6), who spread them to other believers who must reach the whole measure of the fullness of Christ, (Eph 4:13-16) and who prevent them from bearing any fruit being choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures and from becoming mature (Lk 8:14).

Though the Church in Sardis was a weak church whose deeds were not sound, a few who washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev 7:14) were together with Jesus in righteousness, which did not dirty the robes.

Current Status: The church was full of those with living names but who are dead spiritually but also had a small group of believers in white robes who walked with Jesus.

The Reference Verses of the Church in Sardis

(Jer 17:7-13)

7. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.
For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river,
8. and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.
9. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
10. I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.
11. As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.
12. A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.
O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart
13. from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

(Rev 17:3-4)

3. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.
And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious
4. stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

(1Ti 5:6)

6. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

(Lk 8:14)

14. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

(Mic 7:1-4)

1. Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit.
2. The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.
3. That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up.
4. The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

(Rev 16:15)

15. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

(1Th 5:1-8)

1. But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
2. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
3. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
4. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
5. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
6. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
7. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
8. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

(Rev 7:4)

4. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

(Isa 61:10-11)

- I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.
- 10.

- For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.
- 11.

(Rev 22:14)

14. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

(Ex 32:31-35)

31. And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.
32. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.
33. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold,
34. mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

35. And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

(Php 4:3-4)

And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the
3. gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

4. Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

(Lk 10:19-20)

19. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

20. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

(Mk 4:22-23)

22. For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

23. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

