

## " Sardis – The Church of the Living Dead "

Portions of this message were inspired during personal prayer and study time primarily in the Book of Revelation. Additional study sources for this series include: *The Revelation* by John F. Walvoord; *The Revelation Record* by Henry M. Morris; *E Quake* by Jack Hayford; *Keys to Revelation* study notes by Jack Hayford; *The New International Bible Commentary*, edited by F. F. Bruce; *The NIV Study Bible*, 1985 by The Zondervan Corporation; *Thru the Bible* by J. Vernon McGee; *Provision of History* by Elizabeth Williams; *Seeing Things John's Way* by David A. deSilva; *The Book of Revelation (Revised)*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament by Robert H. Mounce; *Revelation Expanded* by Finis Jennings Dake; *The Book of Revelation* by Clarence Larkin; *Systematic Theology (Revised Edition)* edited by Stanley M. Horton; *Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective* by William W. Menzies and Stanley M. Horton; *Faith Lessons on the Early Church: Conquering the Gates of Hell* by Ray Vander Laan; *Revelation: Four Views*, edited by Steve Gregg; *The Ultimate Victory* by Stanley M. Horton; *A Study on Revelation* by Boyce A. Teas (unpublished); *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia*, William M. Ramsay; [LearnTheBible.org](http://LearnTheBible.org); [JewishEncyclopedia.com](http://JewishEncyclopedia.com); [AllAboutArchaeology.org](http://AllAboutArchaeology.org); [BiblePlaces.com](http://BiblePlaces.com); [Sacred-Destinations.com](http://Sacred-Destinations.com); [GodsCare.net](http://GodsCare.net); [BenedictSeraphim.WordPress.com](http://BenedictSeraphim.WordPress.com); [Guide-Martine.com](http://Guide-Martine.com); [Bible-History.com](http://Bible-History.com); [HolyLandPhotos.org](http://HolyLandPhotos.org); [Britannica.com](http://Britannica.com);  
Pastor Ed recommends these and other resources to you. He invites you to contact him at [info@EastonWorshipCenter.org](mailto:info@EastonWorshipCenter.org) to join in our online discussions.

**July 18, 2010**  
Easton Worship Center

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Sardis was the home of Aesop of  
"Aesop's Fables" (The Fox and  
the Grapes, The Tortoise and the  
Hare, The Boy Who Cried Wolf)

### Revelation 3:1-6 NIV

*1a "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:*

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### Revelation 3 NIV

*1b These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.*

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### Revelation 3 NIV

*2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.*

*3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, 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.*

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**Remember  
Obey  
Repent**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4; Matthew 24.42-44; 2 Peter 3.10

### Revelation 3 NIV

*4 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.*

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1 Kings 18.21

### James 1:21-27 NIV

*21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.*

*22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

*23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror*

*24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*

*25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.*

*26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.*

*27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

**Revelation 3 NIV**

*5 He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.*

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**Revelation 3• NIV**

*6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

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**1 Peter 2:9-12 NIV**

*9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

*10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

*11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to **abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.***

*12 Live such good lives **among the pagans** that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, **they may see your good deeds and glorify God** on the day he visits us.*

**Two errors Christians make:**

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 5.13; Mark 16.15; Mark 9.50; Luke 14.34-35

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

**For prayerful reflection:**

- Describe the areas and ways in which you find it easy to compromise your faith and fit in with secular culture. What makes it difficult to stand up for Christ in these situations?

- Describe the type of involvement in the secular world and with secular people that you as a Christian must have in order to communicate the message of Jesus to your culture.

- In which aspects of your life are you so committed to God’s worldview that you seem to be a stranger in the world?

***Life Scriptures for this week***

Mon, Jul 19	Revelation 3.1
Tue, Jun 20	Revelation 3.2-3
Wed, Jul 21	Revelation 3.4-6
Thu, Jul 22	1 Thessalonians 5.1-4
Fri, Jul 23	Matthew 24.42-44
Sat, Jul 24	James 1.21-27
Sun, Jul 25	1 Peter 2.9-12