




# PLAYING CHRISTIANITY


AN EXAMINATION OF THE CHURCH OF SARDIS  
REV 3:1-6


modern day  
**TURKEY**

 Pergamos


 Smyrna

 Ephesus

 Laodicea

 Thyatira

 Sardis

 Philadelphia





# LAODICEA

- Wretched
- Miserable
- Poor
- Blind
- Naked



Luke warm - Complacency

# PERGAMUM

- Held fast Jesus Name
- Did not deny my faith (even when Antipas was killed)
- Courageous in the face of death
- However, Neutral vs Action



Sin of Neutrality

# EPHESUS

- Active workers in the Kingdom
- They tested those who claimed to be apostles
- Persevered and refused to tolerate false teaching
- Did not lose heart during their tribulations
- However, they left their first love



Left their first love

# SMYRNA

- 1 of 2 that received only praise
- Withstanding tribulation even in the face of poverty
- Resisted the false accusations of the Jews
- Warned that even more tribulation was coming



Stand strong no matter the cost

# THE CHURCH OF SARDIS

- 50 miles east of Smyrna, so this was inland
- Known for rich deposits of gold (first place to use coins for trade) and intersection of 5 highways
- Unique fortification





# THE CHURCH OF SARDIS

Revelation 3:1 "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: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead."

- John 3:34 "“For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.”"
- Revelation 1:20 "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches."

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- Revelation 20:12-15 "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is [the Book] of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

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- 1 Samuel 16:7 "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For [the LORD does] not [see] as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
- 1 Timothy 5:5-7 "Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. 6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. 7 And these things command, that they may be blameless."

# THE CHURCH OF SARDIS

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- Satan - 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."
- Temptation - Matthew 26:41 ""Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak."
  - Romans 13:14 "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts."

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

- False teaching - Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."
  - Acts 20:28-31 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."

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- Satan
- Temptation
- False teaching
- The coming of Jesus Christ - Matthew 24:42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming"
  - Mark 13:37 "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

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

- Ephesians 5:14-16 "Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."  
15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil."



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- Acts 10:35 ""But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."

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- Hebrews 5:9 "And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,"
- Acts 14:26 "From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed."

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Revelation 3:3 "Remember 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."

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- Jude 17 "But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:"
- II Corinthians 7:8-11 "For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance [leading] to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, [what] clearing [of yourselves], [what] indignation, [what] fear, [what] vehement desire, [what] zeal, [what] vindication! In all [things] you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

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- 2 Timothy 1:13 "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."
- Acts 26:20 ""but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."

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- 2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."
- Luke 12:40 "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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- Philippians 2:12 "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"
- Revelation 7:9 "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,"

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- Ephesians 5:27 "that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."

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- Isaiah 4:3 And it shall come to pass that [he who is] left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy-- everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem.
- Ezekiel 13:9 "My hand will be against the prophets who envision futility and who divine lies; they shall not be in the assembly of My people, nor be written in the record of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I [am] the Lord GOD.

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- Psalms 69:28 "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous"
- Malachi 3:16, "Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard [them]; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name."

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- Matthew 10:32-33 states "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

# THE CHURCH OF SARDIS

Revelation 3:6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

- Mark 8:18 ""Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?"