



LOVE SO AMAZING

The Love of Christ Exhibited

Specifically to Each of the Churches in Revelation

2022 THEME

Revelation 3:1 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**, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

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

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.

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**.

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, but **I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**

6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The Book of Revelation is an unveiling or revealing of the Lord Jesus Christ. In chapters two and three, this book reveals truth about the Lord Jesus that should be a focus of every church – He know a church’s “works.” Regarding the seven churches in these two chapters, note the following:

Revelation 2:2 **I know thy works...**

9 **I know thy works...**

13 **I know thy works...**

19 **I know thy works...**

3:1 **...I know thy works...**

8 **I know thy works...**

15 **I know thy works...**



Sardis was situated approximately sixty kilometers south of Thyatira, near the crossroads between Smyrna and Pergamos. Therefore, regional commerce was vital to the economic and cultural life of the city. Woolen goods figured prominently in local trade. In addition to commerce, the city derived wealth from gold mined from the river Pactolus.

Sardis featured a temple to the goddess Artemis, also known as *Diana*, and sometimes worshiped as Cybele. Also prominent was the temple dedicated to the Roman emperor. The veneration of Caesar played key political and economic roles in the city.

<https://www.revelationanswers.org/2020/06/church-at-sardis.html>



Temple of Artemis in Sardis



Synagogue in Sardis



Gymnasium of Sardis

<https://www.ephesustravelguide.com/blog/history-of-sardis-private-sardis-tours-from-kusadasi-selcuk-sirince-and-sirince>

❖ This morning we will observe the assessment of Christ regarding the church in Sardis.

I. THE DECLARATION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST “...I know thy works...”

A. The Principle of Identity – the Believers’ Works,
3:1 “...I know thy works...”

❖ The Lord Jesus Christ makes it clear that He is astutely aware of a church’s character:

Original Word: οἶδα

Transliteration: eidó

Definition: be aware, behold, consider, perceive

Usage: **I know**, remember, appreciate.

***eídō* ("seeing that becomes knowing") then is a gateway to grasp spiritual truth (reality) from a physical plane.** (*eídō*) then is physical seeing (sight) which should be the constant bridge to mental and spiritual seeing (*comprehension*).

[Strong's Greek: 1492. εἶδω \(eidó\) -- be aware, behold, consider, perceive \(biblehub.com\)](http://biblehub.com)

- ❖ The Lord Jesus addressed the church as a singular entity – “thy.”
- ❖ The Lord connects the individual church with its “works.”

Original Word: ἔργον

Transliteration: ergon

Definition: Usage: work, task, employment; a deed, action; that which is wrought or made, a work.

érgon – a *work* or *worker* who accomplishes something. ***érgon* ("work") is a deed (action) that carries out (completes) an *inner desire* (intension, purpose).**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2041.htm>

B. The Pointed Indictment – the Believers' Ways,
3:1c – "...that thou hast a name that thou livest,
and art dead."

- ❖ From God's perspective, their reputation is the opposite of their reality.
- ❖ The statement by the Lord Jesus is the ultimate "reality check."
- ❖ The Judgment Seat will be the next "reality check."

II. THE DEMAND OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, 3:2-3

- ❖ The Lord Jesus continues His assessment and wake-up call to the church in Sardis with a few more pointed commands for repairing and remembering their relationship with Him.

A. The Repairing and Recommending

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

Original Word: γρηγορέω

Transliteration: grégoreó

Definition: to be awake, to watch

Usage: (a) I am awake (in the night), watch, (b) I am **watchful**, on the alert, vigilant.

grēgoreúō – literally, "stay awake"; (figuratively) be *vigilant* (*responsible*, watchful).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1127.htm>

❖ Wake up! Do not go to sleep on your watch!

Mt. 26:41 **Watch and pray**, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

❖ Be alert to the inherent challenges to your testimony.

1 Cor. 16:13 **Watch** ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

❖ Be different, not doing what other compromisers do!

1 Thess. 5:6 Therefore **let us not sleep, as do others;** but let us **watch** and be sober.

1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober, **be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

❖ Be anchored in your faith, knowing what you believe, being strengthened!

Original Word: στηρίζω

Transliteration: stérizó

Definition: to make fast, establish – **strengthen**

Usage: (a) I fix firmly, direct myself towards, (b) generally met: I buttress, prop, support; I strengthen, establish.

stērízō – **properly, set fast** (fix); give *support to secure* (firmly establish); solidly plant (which eliminates vacillation).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4741.htm>

Jas. 5:8 Be ye also patient; **stablish your hearts**: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

❖ The works are NOT perfect; they are lacking fulfillment of the intended purpose and are about ready to die.

B. The Remembering and Repenting

Revelation 3:3 **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.

- ❖ The method needed to be “watchful and strengthen” is given in Rev. 3:3 “Remember...”
- ❖ “Remember therefore **how** thou hast received and heard...” means to recall the doctrine learned during church services and implement it – including an attitude of repentance.

Original Word: τηρέω

Transliteration: téreó

Definition: to watch over, to guard; **Usage:** I keep, guard, observe, watch over – “**hold fast**”

tēréō (from *tēros*, "a guard") – **properly, maintain (preserve)**; (figuratively) *spiritually guard* (watch), *keep intact*.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5083.htm>

2 Pet. 1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to **put you always in remembrance** of these things, though ye know *them*, and **be established** in the present truth. (**established = strengthened**)

❖ The church in Sardis was simply “going through the motions” – a form of godliness.

2 Tim. 3:5 **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

❖ The remembering and retaining was to lead them to repenting.

III. THE DISCLOSURE BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, 3:4

Revelation 3:4 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.**

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, but **I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**

6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

- ❖ The church's testimony is failing, but some members are staying faithful – “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments...”
- ❖ The Lord Jesus discloses the promise of fellowship in the future for faithful servants – “...and **they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.**”

Rev. 3:5 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, but **I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**

- ❖ Future blessings far outweigh the temporal pleasures of compromise.

“Do not sacrifice the permanent upon the altar of the immediate.” -- Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

<https://quotefancy.com/quote/1767905/Bob-Jones-Sr-Don-t-sacrifice-the-permanent-on-the-altar-of-the-immediate>

❖ The whole world may compromise, but the Lord knows who doesn't and earns His respect – before God, respect for reality is better than reputation before others.

Mt. 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall **confess me before men**, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Summary

1. The church in Ephesus – doctrinally sound but left their first love.
2. The church in Smyrna – financially poor but spiritually rich.
3. The church in Pergamos – had Satan's seat and allowed the doctrine of both Balaam and Nicolaitans.
4. The church in Thyatira – had charity, service, faith, and patience, but allowed Jezebel to influence others in sin.
5. The church in Sardis – had a few faithful members but phony testimony and imperfect works.

The lesson of Sardis is to be alert of the Lord's assessment, make adjustments, and hold fast to Him and His promises.

Conclusion

2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless **I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.**

13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

2 Cor. 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet **the inward *man* is renewed day by day.**

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us **a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;**

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for **the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.**