

# **The Church of the Zombies**

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I. Introduction. Text: Revelation 3.

II. The condition of the church of Sardis.

A. There was nothing attractive about the church here.

B. The life of the church is revealed in its deeds.

1. The church outwardly professed Christ.

2. However, there was no life in the churches.

C. Disciples must be cross bearers who discipline themselves instead of escape life.

D. There must have been a time when this church was alive.

III. The need of Sardis.

A. They needed to wake up.

B. They were to strengthen what remains.

1. This refers to their works.

2. Their works were good in a way, but they were incomplete.

3. They were to be strengthened by getting the motives right.

C. They needed to remember how they received the gospel.

1. Repentance brings about conversion and allows the Spirit to bring about the life of Christ.

2. This is the place of new beginning.

D. They needed to remember the hope of the coming of the Lord.

1. Jesus will come suddenly and without warning.

2. Jesus will take the church suddenly in the air. (I Corinthians 15)

IV. There is a period in church history marked by Sardis conditions following the Reformation.

A. The reformers preached the truth of the gospel.

B. The mistake of the reformers was that they linked the oversight of the church with government control.

C. God protects those who have received the life of Christ by faith. (Isaiah 1:18)

1. The overcomers will be dressed in white before the throne of God.

2. God will never blot out their names from the book of life—God gives reassurance to those who believe.

3. Believers will be acknowledged before all.

**Application questions:**

1. What can the church of Sardis teach us about dead works?

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2. How is the coming of Jesus motivation for us to live a life of faith?

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3. How does the security that God gives the believer help you daily to work out God's will? Explain.

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