

## NEARING DEATH (Rev. 3:1-6)

- I. The Address (Rev. 3:1*a*)
  - A. To the *angelos* (“MESSENGER” or *angel*) of the CONGREGATION at Sardis
    - 1. Noted for its acropolis: an ELEVATED FORTRESS
      - a. Neary vertical ROCK WALLS rising 800 FEET
      - b. Fell TWICE due to COMPLACENCY
    - 2. Noted for its TEMPLE to ARTEMIS (or Cybele)
    - 3. Noted for its necropolis: CEMETARY of “A THOUSAND hills”
  - B. From “He who has the seven SPIRITS of God and the seven STARS”
    - 1. Who administers the FULL POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT
    - 2. Who holds SECURELY His FAITHFUL SERVANTS
- II. The Commendation: NONE
- III. The Condemnation (Rev. 3:1*b*, 2*b*)
  - A. Christ KNEW their WORKS and found them IMPERFECT
    - 1. They were BUSY
    - 2. Their ACTIVITY was SUPERFICIAL
  - B. The church was REPUTED to be ALIVE, but was really DEAD
    - 1. Failed to live up to GOD’S HOLY CHARACTER
    - 2. Failed to live up to THEIR HEAVENLY CALLING

IV. The Exhortation (Rev. 3:2*a*, 3*a*)

- A. “WAKE UP!” or “Become ALERT”
- B. “STRENGTHEN the things that REMAIN, which were ABOUT to DIE”
  - 1. Foundational DOCTRINES were still KNOWN
  - 2. It was ACCEPTABLE WORKS that were FAILING
- C. “REMEMBER what you have RECEIVED and HEARD”
  - 1. “Keep it”: OBEY it and SAFEGUARD it
  - 2. “Repent”: TURN from CARELESSNESS to OBEDIENCE

V. The Warning (Rev. 3:3*b*)

- A. Christ will come “like a THIEF” in JUDGMENT
- B. Christ will come UNEXPECTEDLY (cf. 1 Thess. 5:2, 4)

VI. The Encouragement (Rev. 3:4-6)

- A. A FEW even “in Sardis” remained UNDEFILED (v. 4)
  - 1. Separate from the COMPROMISE around them
  - 2. WORTHY in “WHITE garments” indicating GENUINE salvation (cf. Isa. 61:10; Rev. 7:14)
- B. Others who reject the WORLD for CHRIST will LIKEWISE be “clothed in WHITE garments” (v. 5*a*).
- C. Those who are HIS are SECURE (v. 5*b*)
  - 1. No danger of name being ERASED from the BOOK OF LIFE
  - 2. Rather, will have name CONFESSED before the FATHER and “His angels” (cf. Matt. 10:32)