

**Book of Revelation**, part 28  
*The Church at Sardis*

- I.** The Church at Sardis—*those escaping* (Rev. 3:1-6).
1. Wealthy commercial trade center, 30 miles SE of Thyatira.
  2. Prophetically represents the reformation: protestant movement.
  3. Rebellion against the dominate economic, political, and religious structure in Europe and Asia Minor—the Roman Catholic Church.
  4. Historical background to the Reformation:
    - 1) Little Ice Age about 1200 to 1600 AD.
    - 2) Mostly illiterate population.
    - 3) Gutenberg Press about 1450 AD, vulgate Latin Bible.
    - 4) Black Death, kills about 1/3 of the population in Europe.
    - 5) Sweating sickness, syphilis, immorality, and reaction to that immorality.
    - 6) Martin Luther—95 Theses, 1517 AD.
      - i. Justification by faith in Jesus, not by “charitable acts.”
      - ii. Consubstantiation, the spirit of Christ is present in the Eucharist (*cf.* text 1 Cor. 11:24).
      - iii. John Calvin, John Knox, Johnathan Edwards, John Newton, John MacArthur.
    - 7) Reform theology is gaining popularity currently.
      - i. Covenant theology, a philosophy of Biblical history.
      - ii. Lordship salvation, the devil is in the detail.
      - iii. Calvin TULIP, for example “L” for limited atonement (*cf.* 1 Jn. 2:2).
      - iv. Misrepresent election (*cf.* 1 Cor. 6:11).
      - v. Buzzwords: Tulip, Lordship, 5-point Calvinism, “easy believism”, discipleship, they hate dispensationalism.
- II.** The church a Sardis contrasted to the Image of Christ (Rev. 3:1).
1. “Having the seven Spirits of God” (Rev. 5:6).
    - 1) The Holy Spirit shares the same essence with the Son (*cf.* Jn. 10:28-30).
    - 2) The Holy Spirit has the same divine nature as Christ.
    - 3) The Holy Spirit is deity (Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Cor. 12:13, 18).
    - 4) The Holy Spirit ministers to the churches, hence seven Spirits.
  2. “...and the seven stars..”, holding the pastor accountable (Rev. 1:16, 20; Heb. 13:17).
  3. “...I know your works.”
    - 1) Name—they have a reputation.
    - 2) They are alive physically while dead spiritually.