Seven Churches Of Asia Series:

Sardis: The Dead Church
Rev. 3:1-6

Introduction:

A. Sardis:
   1. Once one of the richest and most powerful city in the world.
   2. About 35 miles E-SE of Thyatira
B. Let us notice the various parts of this letter:

Discussion:

I. The Description of Christ In This Letter (v. 1)
   A. "Has Seven Spirits of God."
   B. Has "seven stars" or angels - all under his authority. (cf. Matt. 28:18-20).

II. The Condition Of The Church At Sardis.
   A. Her good points:
      1. A few who had not defiled their garments.(v. 4).
         a. The faithful few often keep churches going.
         b. The faithful few who keep themselves unspotted from world. (cf. Jas. 1:27)
         c. The faithful few have always been the perserved. (cf. Noah, 10 would have saved Sodom).
      2. A few who were worthy - could not be said of all.
   B. Her bad points:
      1. A dead church, in spite of her reputation as living church. (v. 1)
         a. Dead churches can be very active.
         b. Dead churches died for a variety of reasons.
            (1) May have not been taught.
            (2) May have become complacent and careless.
            (3) May have been absorbed by environment.
            (4) May have consumed themselves. (cf. Gal. 5:15).
      2. Her works were not perfect or mature.

III. The Advice To The Church At Sardis.
   A. "Be watchful" (v. 2; cf. Mark 13:37; 1 Cor. 16:13)
      1. Watch for souls.
      2. Watch for Jesus to come. (v. 3)
   B. "Strengthen the things which remain. (v. 2)
      1. Strong members have responsibilities to weak. (cf. Rom. 15:1 KJV).
      2. Often need to give special effort to salvage whom we can from dead churches.
   C. "Remember..." (v. 3)
   D. "Hold fast" (v. 3)
   E. "Repent" (cf. Lk 13:3; Acts 17:30).
   F. Overcome (v.5)
      1. To be clothed in whit - made white in blood of Lamb. (Rev. 7:14)
      2. To keep from having name blotted out of book of Life. (cf. Phil. 4:3; Rev. 20:12; 22:19)
      3. To have Jesus confess name before Father and angels. (cf. Matt. 10:32).

Conclusion:

A. How can you tell that a church is dead?
B. A church may be dead and still have some faithful - need to salvage them if possible.