

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for March 30, 2008**

**The Dead Church**  
**Revelation 3:1-6**  
**Terry Riley**

We will examine 5 aspects of the message to the church in Sardis so that we might understand the characteristics which Christ desires His church to possess.

I. First, we must understand the commission to write to the church in Sardis (Revelation 3:1).

There are four points of interest mentioned here in this commission to the church in Sardis:

- 1-There is mention of an angel.
- 2-There is mention of the church.
- 3-There is mention of the city.
- 4-There is mention of the author.

II. Second, we must understand the condemnation given to the church in Sardis (Revelation 3:1).

There was one single problem that existed in Sardis and that was the fact that one church was dead. The Greek word NEKROS used here means “spiritually dead; void of vitality and fruitfulness; sunk in a deep sleep which if not aroused is death itself.”

III. Third, we must understand the counsel given to the church in Sardis (Revelation 3:2-3).

Fortunately, Christ offered wise counsel. He laid out a five-step action plan for revival in the church at Sardis:

Step 1-Revive! (Revelation 3:2; cf. Matthew 24:42; 1 Peter 5:8)

Step 2-Reinforce! (Revelation 3:2)

Step 3-Remember! (Revelation 3:3; cf. 1 Timothy 6:20)

Step 4- Retain! (Revelation 3:3)

Step 5-Repent! (Revelation 3:3)

IV. Fourth, we must understand the commendation given to the church in Sardis (Revelation 3:4).

The church had a reputation for being alive, but it was dead. However, there were a few individuals within the church that truly were alive.

V. Fifth, we must understand the challenge given to the overcomers in Sardis (Revelation 3:5-6).

This promise to the believers in Sardis is two-fold:

First, their bodies will be clothed in white garments (Revelation 3:5 cf. 19:7-9).

Second, their name will be confessed before the Father and His angels (Revelation 3:5 cf. Matthew 10:32; Romans 8:28-39).

I pray that we as a church avoid the error of the church in Sardis, and heed the counsel of Christ seeking to demonstrate that we are spiritually alive in Christ and not dead in our trespasses and sins.