

# *Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship*

*Every word inspired.*



*Every word proclaimed.*

***“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28***

24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them — I place no other burden on you.

25 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father;

28 and I will give him the morning star.

29 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

- **The Alpha and Omega** Rev 22:13; Rev 1:17; Rev 2:8; Rev 21:6
- **The Word** Jn 1:1, Mal 3:1; Jn 1:14; 1 Jn 1:1; Rev 19:13
- **The Last Adam** 1Co 15:45; Ro 5:14
- **The Bright Morning Star** Rev 22:16, 2 Pe 1:19
- **The Amen** Rev 3:14; 2Co 1:20
- **The True Light** Jn 1:3-9, Isa 9:2; Lk 2:32; Jn 3:19-21; Jn 8:12; Jn 12:46
- **The Lion of Judah** Rev 5:5
- **The Bread of Life** John 6:35; 6:48
- **The Gate** John 10:9

- **The Corner Stone** Mt 21:42; Mk 12:10; Lk 20:17; Ps 118:22; Ac 4:11; Eph 2:20-21; 1Pe 2:6-7
- **The Rock** 1Co 10:4; Isa 8:14; Isa 28:16; Ro 9:32-33;
- 1 Pe 2:8
- **The Door** John 10:9
- **The Bridegroom** Jn Mt 9:15; Mk 2:19-20; Lk 5:34-35; Mt 25:1-10; Rev 19:7; Rev 21:2
- **The Firstborn** Ro 8:29
- **The Firstfruits** 1Co 15:23
- **The Firstborn From The Dead** Rev 1:5
- **The Chief Shepherd** 1Pe 5:4; Mt 2:6; Mic 5:2; Jn 10:11; 1Pe 2:25; Heb 13:20
- **The Passover Lamb** 1Co 5:7
- **A Horn of Salvation** Lk 1:69



“He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter are broken: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star.”

That may be a reference to the coming of our Lord . . . “

- S. Lewis Johnson

"I am . . . the Bright and Morning Star" (Rev. 22:16). What is the morning star? It is the herald of the dawn. This tells us of the Lord Jesus as the Coming One. Jesus is the . . . Bright and Morning Star. In a little while He is going to shine forth in glory — quietly, serenely, beautifully, to herald the coming day. This is the aspect of His coming developed by Paul through the Holy Spirit. He was used to open it more fully. He said, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thess. 4:16,17). It is Paul who tells us, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Cor. 15:51-53). That is what is going to take place when the Lord Jesus shines forth as the Bright and Morning Star."

- Harry Ironside

***“The overcomer at the church of Thyatira is promised “the morning star” (Rev. 2:28). The morning star is Christ (Rev. Rev. 22:16). The morning star rises near the end of the long night, before the night has run its course and before the dawn. The night is the current age. The day is the millennial reign of Christ. The morning star will appear to those who watch for Him before the night concludes (Heb. Heb. 9:28).***

- Henry Morris



# CHRIST - THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

Michael Jacob

Texts : Rev. 22:16, Num :24:17, Matthew 2:2, Luke 1:78

1. The morning star is very solid light. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Heb. 13:8, " I am the Lord, and I change not". Mal. 3:6.
2. The bright and morning star is the announcer of the rising of the sun.

Here is the greatest truth. As Morning star it speaks about the coming of the Lord for his church which we call as the "Rapture", which is the harbinger of his open coming which we call as the "Second Coming". "When the Sun of righteousness will come with healing in his wings " Mal. 4:2 , "The upright shall have dominion over them in the morning" Psa. 49:14. "The night is far spent , the day is at hand" Rom. 13:11-12. "The path of the just is as a shining light, that shineth more and more into the perfect day" Prov.4:18.

***“The Morning Star (2:28) refers to Christ returning before the dawn, suggesting the Rapture of the Church before the establishment of the kingdom (Rev. 2:16, 1 Pet. 1:19).”***

- John Walvoord

*“Every Prophecy of the Bible”*

Page 522

# **The Church at Sardis**

***“The Church of the Living Dead”***

***Rev. 3:1-6***

Feb. 12, 2017

# Seven Churches of Revelation

Chapters 2-3

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



## Rev 3:1-6

### 1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.'

2 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.'

3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.'

4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.'

5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.'

6 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Modern day Sart. (Sardis)









# City of Sardis

1. 130,000 population in its prime.
2. Due to its wealth from trade, fertile territory, gold from the Pactolus River, wool and jewelry industries, Sardis had been an economic super power in all of Asia. Gold and silver coins were said to have been first minted in Sardis. Located on 5 major trade routes. It was at one time considered the greatest city in the world.
3. Sardis was built on a mountain spur about 1500 feet above the valley floor. It was regarded as virtually impregnable to military assault. 3 sides – sheer cliffs, the 4<sup>th</sup> side only narrow steep path.
4. King – Croesus. “as rich as Croesus.” Croesus was a king who had ambitions, like most kings did, and being a very wealthy man and head of a very important city, he decided that he would also reach out and try to enlarge his kingdom. And he did that by seeking to overthrow the Persian king Cyrus.
5. The glory days for Sardis were in the past. The gold supply had run dry, it was no longer competitive in the garment industry due to the trade guilds and economic stability of Thyatira, and trade with the east had steadily declined. Sardis was dead.
6. Religiously they had temples to: Cybele, Zeus, Artemis/Diana, Emperor Tiberius (because of gift to rebuild after AD 17 earthquake)

## Church at Sardis

1. No mention of its beginning in Scripture.
2. The church was likely founded during Paul's ministry at Ephesus (Acts 19:10).
3. The most prominent person from the church at Sardis known to history is Melito. He was an Apologist (one who wrote in defense of Christianity) who served as pastor of Sardis in the late second century. Wrote the first commentary on Revelation.
4. There's no mention of persecution against this church, there's no mention of bad theology, there's no mention of any false teachers, there's no mention of any compromise with the world. There's no mention of any sin. But no doubt all were true and eventually took its toll on the church.
5. It was a dead church in a dead city. "The church had become a thermometer that registered the temperature of the city instead of a thermostat that changed the temperature of the city." The church eventually disappeared.

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If a church is dead, 3 things have happened:

*1. The Lord Jesus was no longer obeyed.*

**John 14:6**

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life;

*2. The Holy Spirit has been quenched.*

**John 6:63**

63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

*3. The Word of God has been ignored.*

**Heb 4:12**

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**1 Peter 1:23**

23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

**\*THE CHURCH AT SARDIS HAD FAILED TO SUBMIT TO THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST, THEY HAD QUENCHED GOD'S SPIRIT, IGNORED GOD'S WORD AND THEREFORE THEY WERE VOID OF HIS LIFE, HIS CONTROL, AND HIS INFLUENCE IN THEIR CHURCH.**

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***The church was so dead that it actually had no struggles going on within it.***

- There were no Jewish accusers.
- There were no false apostles.
- There were no false teachers.
- There were no Nicolaitans, as there were at Pergamum.
- There were no female seducers, as was Jezebel at Thyatira.
- There was nothing!

*The church at Sardis had flat-lined.*



## **Jer 2:13**

13 "For My people have committed two evils:  
They have forsaken Me,  
The fountain of living waters,  
To hew for themselves cisterns,  
Broken cisterns  
That can hold no water.

## **Dan 5:25-28**

25 "Now this is the inscription that was written out: 'MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.'  
26 "This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENE' — God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.  
27 " 'TEKEL' — you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.  
28 " 'PERES' — your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians."

## **Matt 23:27-28**

27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.  
28 "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

## **2 Tim 3:5**

5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power;



## **Matt 7:22-23**

22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

***“Looks can be deceiving. A body that from all outward appearances appears strong and healthy can, upon closer inspection, be found to be racked with cancer or some other terminal disease. Our Lord performs a battery of spiritual tests on the church at Sardis. She is subjected to a divine CAT-scan, MRI and X-ray, and the diagnosis is far worse than any external, superficial examination could have ever revealed: she is dead!”***

***- Anon.***

***“The church at Sardis had it all in the show window  
but nothing in stock.”***

- Vance Havner

“Many Denominational Churches have great choirs, big buildings, and all sorts of programs. They have a form that they are alive, but as Jesus said: you are dead! The majority of them have rejected the work of the Holy Spirit in their churches . . .”

- Anthony Esteves

**“Outwardly splendid as of old,  
Inwardly lifeless, dead and cold.  
Her force and fire all spent and gone,  
Like the dead moon, she still shines on.”**

**- Contemporary Poet**

Someone else has described these dead churches as:

**"Mild-mannered people,  
meeting in mild-mannered ways,  
striving to be more mild-mannered."**

## ***The story of a dead church . . .***

The story is told that on a Sunday morning someone had a heart attack while sitting in church. The church called 911 and the church was so dead that the paramedics carried out the first 7 rows of people before they found the right person.

## ***So what does a dead church look like?***

Charles Swindoll writes...

- The pastor graduated from a theological cemetery.
- The choir director moonlights as the local coroner.
- They sing, “Embalmed in Gilead” and “Amazing Grave, How Sweet the Ground.”
- At the Rapture, they’ll be the first churches taken up because the Bible says, “The dead in Christ will rise first.”
- They drive to church in one long line with their headlights on. Whenever someone joins their membership, the church office immediately notifies the next of kin.
- Each week they put an ad in the obituaries. The church van is a black hearse and the church sign is a tombstone. Their motto is, “Many are cold and a few are frozen.”
- The church of Sardis was simply a morgue with a steeple!



## ***8 signs of a dying church?***

- A dying church rests on its past accomplishments and is satisfied with its present state.
- A dying church is more concerned about their rituals and their formalities than they are about spirituality.
- A dying church is more concerned about social change than they are about seeing people changed by the power of God.
- A dying church is more concerned with material growth than it is with spiritual growth.
- A dying church is more concerned with pleasing men than it is with pleasing God.
- A dying church clings more tightly to its creeds and confessions than it does to the Word of God.
- A dying church is one that loses its conviction that the Bible is the Word of God.
- A dying church no longer “contends for the faith”. There is no “fight” left in her.

Look at our ivy league schools – Harvard, Yale  
Princeton, Dartmouth, & Columbia. Schools that  
were created to promote and educate the life of  
God and Jesus Christ, and the priority of God’s  
Word in a person’s life, are now dead institutions  
who now undermine and discredit all of the above.



HARVARD

*Success comes naturally here*



ANNO DOMINI  
MDCCCXCVI  
MAY 15 1896  
WALTER B. WOOD  
RESTORED



CANTABRIGIA  
LITERA ANTICIS  
NOVIS SITTA TE  
DECORA

AFTER GOD HAD CARRIED VS SAFE TO NEW ENGLAND  
AND WEE HAD BVILDED OVR HOUSES  
PROVIDED NECESSARIES FOR OVR LIVELI HOOD  
REARD CONVENIENT PLACES FOR GODS WORSHIP  
AND SETLED THE CIVILL GOVERNMENT  
ONE OF THE NEXT THINGS WE LONGED FOR  
AND LOOKED AFTER WAS TO ADVANCE LEARNING  
AND PERPETVATE IT TO POSTERITY  
DREADING TO LEAVE AN ILLITERATE MINISTERY  
TO THE CHVRCHES WHEN OVR PRESENT MINISTERS  
SHALL LIE IN THE DVST.

NEW ENGLANDS FIRST FRVITS

***"A church is in danger of death when it begins to worship its own past; when it is more concerned with forms than with life; when it loves systems more than it loves Jesus; when it is more concerned with material than it is with spiritual things."***

- Dr. William Barclay

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4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.'

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6 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

## ***5 imperatives –***

1. “Wake up . . .”

2. “Strengthen . . .”

3. “Remember . . .”

4. “Keep it . . .”

5. “Repent . . .”



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**In 549 BC and again in 219 BC, the city was captured at night by an invading army, while the city slept.**

# **Eph 5:14**

14 For this reason it says,

"Awake, sleeper,

And arise from the dead,

And Christ will shine on you."

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## **Rev 3:3**

3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent.

## **Rev 3:10**

10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing,

## **Rev 12:17**

17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

## **Rev 14:12**

12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

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## **Matt 24:43-44**

43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

44 "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.



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## ***“White Robes”***

1. In the ancient world white robes sometimes stood for victory. The general who won the battle wore white and those who helped him win the battle. So those faithful who have won the victory over sin and death and hell through Christ will receive rewards at the Bema and they there will be clothed in white.

2. The whiteness of these new garments represents holiness and purity. Christ Himself wears a white garment (Matt 17:2; Mark 9:3), unfallen angels wear white garments (Rev 15:6), and the bride of Christ will be wearing white clean linens (Rev 19:8, 14).

## **Rev 19:7-8**

7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

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## ***The 3 views for this verse are:***

- 1. Loss of salvation. (Rom. 8:1, 29-30; John 10:27-29)*
- 2. All (believers & unbelievers) are in the book of life and only those who die without Christ are removed.*

## **Rev 13:8**

8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

## **Rev 17:8**

And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast,

- 3. Promise not a warning.*

## **1 John 5:5**

5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

“In John's day, a king always kept a register. If a man committed a crime against the state, or if he died, his name was erased. So they always kept the register of the city accurate. When you died, your name was erased, you were taken off the roll. Or if you committed a crime you were erased, your name was taken off the roll. Christ is saying the king, the mayor, whoever runs your city might take your name off the list for something you've done, but, believe Me, I will never take your name off My list.”

**- John MacArthur**

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  - 5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.'
- "I will not (never, ever – strongest negative in the Greek) erase his name from the book of life."***
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3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

6 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'





**Alfred Henry Ackley**  
**1887-1960**

**Alfred Henry Ackley** was born 21 January 1887 in Spring Hill, Pennsylvania. He was the youngest son of Stanley Frank Ackley and the younger brother of B. D. Ackley. His father taught him music and he also studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He graduated from Westminster Theological Seminary in Maryland and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1914. He served churches in Pennsylvania and California. He also worked with the Billy Sunday and Homer Rodeheaver evangelist team and for Homer Rodeheaver's publishing company. He wrote around 1500 hymns. He died 3 July 1960 in Los Angeles.

# He Lives

**1. I serve a risen Saviour,  
He's in the world today;  
I know that He is living,  
Whatever men may say;  
I see His hand of mercy,  
I hear His voice of cheer,  
And just the time I need Him  
He's always near.**

**Chorus:**

**He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and He talks with me  
Along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives:  
He lives within my heart.**

**2. In all the world around me  
I see His loving care,  
And tho my heart grows weary  
I never will despair;  
I know that He is leading  
Thro' all the stormy blast,  
The day of His appearing  
Will come at last.**

**3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,  
Lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs  
To Jesus Christ the King!  
The hope of all who seek Him,  
The help of all who find,  
None other is so loving,  
So good and kind.**

**Chorus:  
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and He talks with me  
Along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives:  
He lives within my heart.**