

Chapter 9

The Church at Sardis

*“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write ...” (Revelation
3:1)*

This terrible period of compromise led to the next period of Church history in which it seemed the true Church would finally die. We call it the dark ages. The corrupt Church ruled not only in Rome, but in France, Germany, and England. It was during this time the Crusades took place – A religious war between so called European Christians and the barbaric people of the Mid-East who had taken over Jerusalem. It was considered a holy war to reclaim the city of God. Many lost their lives on both sides during this period of time. Christianity was all but lost and buried beneath the satanic teachings of the corrupt Church leaders.

But the true Church established by Jesus Christ Himself would not die. Even during that period there was a remnant that held to the truth. Once again persecution of Christians began, this time not from a barbaric Roman government but from the supposed Church itself. Those not holding to the values of these false religious rulers were tortured in order to get them to recant, and pledge their allegiance to the Church. If they did not they suffered horrible deaths from the very ones who were supposed to be worshippers of God.

In this letter Jesus is described as “He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.” Remember, the Bible identified this as the true Church. God never lost control of the true Church; those purporting to be her leaders were really on the seat of Satan. Jesus never lost control.

He told them that He knew their works, and that they had a name, and that they were alive but also dead. They were literally walking dead men. The Spirit of Christ was not found in them. Their works were found to be far from perfect before God. They were told to remember what they had first received and what they heard, to hold fast to those things, and repent. If they didn't then they were told that He would come upon them as a thief. They wouldn't know the hour that He would come upon them, so they would be taken before they had a chance to know what had hit them.

Jesus then spoke to the remnant that had not corrupted themselves in these dark times. These were promised to walk with the Lord in white. They were further told that overcomers would be clothed in white, signifying their purity, and that their names would not be blotted out from the Book of Life. He would confess their names before Father God and the Heavenly host, defending them as true believers.

Not much more can be said of this period in Church history because of its obscurity. It was a time of death in the name of Christ. Darkness is always significant of the devil. During this time it seemed the devil had succeeded in taking over the Church. But as we have said, God will always have His remnant, and they will prevail.