

## Threefold promises to the church at Sardis

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### Introduction

1. Text Revelation 3:1-5
2. Sardis was the capital of Lydia, a little more than 30 miles south-southeast of Thyatira.
3. Sardis was built on a citadel inaccessible from three sides and easily protected on the fourth.
4. It rose 1,500 ft about the plain below.
5. Kings that lived there were noted for their wealth, splendor and luxury.
6. In 549 BC Cyrus' soldiers found a crevice in the rocks and took the city by surprise. This happened again in 218 BC by the men of Antiochus the Great
7. The city worshipped the goddess Cybele.
8. An earthquake destroyed the city in AD 17. Tiberius rebuilt the city. When John writes to this city it is a city with a past but no future. The church and the city are in a similar predicament.
  - a. Each had a name that they lived but were dead
  - b. Each fulfilled none of its works; both promised but failed to execute.
  - c. With each it was to watch, or be surprised as by a thief.
  - d. Both were defiled by immorality.
9. There are three promises to this church that I want us to notice this morning.

### II Discussion

- A. He that overcometh shall thus be arrayed in white garments.
  1. The proper garments must be had. Matthew 22:11-14
  2. We can have the proper garment by putting it on. Galatians 3:27
  3. This garment is righteous living. Revelation 19:8
  4. We must be prepared. John 14:1-3
  5. White shows that this garment is pure. Isaiah 1:18
- B. I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life.
  1. This book has been known of for a long time. Exodus 32:32; Daniel 12:1
  2. Jesus told of this book. Luke 10:20
  3. Paul knew of this book. Philippians 4:3
  4. John knew of this book Revelation 3:5; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19
  5. We will be judged out of what is written. John 12:48, Revelation 20:12; 15; II Corinthians 5:10
- C. I will confess his name before my Father and His angels.
  1. Jesus had already declared this. Matthew 10:32-33
  2. One must remain faithful until death. Revelation 2:10
  3. It is a way of life. Romans 1:16; 10:10
  4. God has confessed His Son. Matthew 3:17; 17:5
  5. All men will confess. Philippians 2:11; Romans 14:11-12

### III Conclusion

1. These three promises if one will overcome, then he will not be blotted out of the book, will be confessed before God and His angels by Christ.

2. Have you overcome? Is your name written there? Are and have you been confess before God and His angels?
3. If not why not? If your name is not there in the book of life then heaven is not yours. How sad!
4. You can have your name there and then have it blotted out, can this be said of your name? Why not have it recorded and then leave it there!
5. Come now!

Sources. Idea came from Lee Harbor at ICYC. Homer Hailey on Revelation; Coffman on Matthew. JT Marlin's The Seven church of Asia Minor; Denton Lectures on Revelation.