

## Sunday Session 2 – June 22, 2014

### Seven Teaching Angels – Revelation 3:1

Read Revelation 3:1-6.

Literal Translation of Revelation 3:1: *“And to the messenger of the church in Sardis, write: These things says the One having the seven spirits of God and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that you live, and are dead.”*

Churches often have a reputation for being “spiritually alive”, but in reality, too many are dying, or are dead already.

I Timothy 5:6. At first a person sins with apprehension and regret, but later these things wither away, and there is just sin. This is the hardening process of becoming *dead*.

There are seven types of Churches; we have studied four of them, today we start on the fifth, the Church at Sardis.

Folks such as many in Sardis, too many of them, are in a spiritual stupor, and are like dead people walking, useless to the church of God.

AND TO THE MESSENGER (AGGELO) – Messenger; here it is used for the communicator of the Word of God, as in James 2:5, Matthew 11:10, Mark 1:2. This is an indirect dative of advantage.

When the preacher does his job right, people can grow and advance to the echo zone. His is a gift that is not earned or deserved, but which can help those who want to know God learn to love and know Him. It is God’s means in the Church Age of getting the Mind of Christ out of the pages of scripture and into the souls of individual believers.

### 7 Teaching Angels – 7 Pastors

1. “The seven spirits of God” and the “the seven stars”: The job of the seven teaching angels was to teach the pastors of the 7 churches. Cannon was not completed at this time, so God used teaching angels to communicate the thinking of the Lord Jesus Christ. One teaching angel (*elect angel*) was assigned to each pastor in those 7 churches of the province of Asia (Mark 8:12, Hebrews 1:7; 1:4).
2. An *ASTER* (αστέρ) is a light container. The pastor is to have light in his soul (Revelation 1:16; Revelation 1:20).
3. These stars are described as being in His right hand in Revelation 1:16.
4. The only major emphasis of the congregation is to have a message from God, from the Word, through the communicator. It is the MESSAGE – NOT the MESSENGER!
5. The pastor has a spiritual gift according to Ephesians 4:11.
6. The authority given to the pastor reveals that the disseminator has special protection from God – but also double discipline when necessary. People should never feel called to get the preacher straight. Since the Heavenly Father knows all the facts, He knows exactly how to handle every situation.

7. The pastor is a trilogy:
  - a. Personal life
  - b. Spiritual life
  - c. Message
8. People are required to respect the authority of scripture and the spiritual gift, listening attentively to the teaching, or otherwise they are to silently move on. Good manners, poise and quietness are *always* in order.
9. The pastor's Authority is based totally upon the spiritual gift and the faithfulness of communication.
10. The word *star* – ἀστέρ – accusative plural – emphasizes the importance of the pastor *having the light* before he teaches.