

Triumphant in Christ!

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley, Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

John sees the glorified Christ! *“When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”* (Revelation 1:17–18, NASB)

Read: **Revelation 1:4–6, NASB**

“John to the seven churches that are in Asia.”

Just as the number seven in the Bible often symbolizes completion, the seven churches mentioned in Revelation can be seen as representing the universal church – all believers, in all places, at all times.

This body of believers is precious to God, for it is through the church that His love, light, and truth are manifested in the world. The church has been chosen to bear His name!

God so loved the world, but the world will not be saved. Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than the light – this is the condemnation. Many have been called, but few have been chosen.

“He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24, NASB)

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:3–4, NASB)

There is no condemnation upon those who are in Christ. They have passed from death to life. They have been called out of this world and placed in the church. They have been called out of darkness and placed in His marvelous light!

There is life – eternal life in the church – He has built us to be a dwelling place for His Holy Spirit (Paul’s letter to Ephesus). There is light – the light of truth in the church! Only the church has been designated as the body of Christ. To be in Christ is to be in His body. To be in His body is to be in His Church!

Paul to the church at Corinth:

“The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived...Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:9–11, NASB)

He Gave His life for the church! *“Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.”* (Ephesians 5:25–27, NASB)

Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,”

“and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead”

“He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” (Romans 8:11, NASB)

“and the ruler of the kings of the earth.”

Jesus Christ has been given all power and authority. The first time He came as the suffering servant, However, the next time He comes, He is coming as the conquering king!

The political powers of the world are corrupted! Jesus Christ will establish His kingdom! He will put down all corruption! He will rule in righteousness!

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”
(Psalm 45:6, NASB)

“To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—”

His blood cleanses us from all sin. We have been redeemed by His blood – set free from sin’s reign over us.

“and He has made us to be a kingdom”

Jesus preached concerning the Kingdom of Heaven – It is at hand. By the new birth in Him, we are born from above and made citizens of His kingdom – a spiritual kingdom until He returns and sets up His kingdom upon the earth!!! A new heaven and a new earth in which only righteousness dwells!

(He has made us to be) priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

We are royal servants unto God – to bring Him glory, honor and praise! Surely.

“Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.” (Romans 12:1, NASB)

Surely, He is worthy of it all! To Him be all praise! All Glory! And All Honor!