

WE ARE NOT ALONE

Revelation 1:9–20

Sunday Morning Message – 8/23/2026

Today's Focus: Whatever we face, Jesus is present with His church, powerful over our circumstances, and holding His people in His hand.

INTRODUCTION: HAVE YOU EVER FELT ALONE?

Have you ever gone through a season when you felt **alone**?

You can be surrounded by people and still feel alone.

You can come to church, shake somebody's hand, smile, say, **"I'm doing good,"** and still carry something inside that nobody knows about.

There are moments when we ask:

- **"God, where are You?"**
- "Do You see what I'm going through?"
- "Do You see what's happening in my family?"
- "Do You see what's happening in our church?"
- "God, do You see what's happening in this world?"

Chapter 1 Revelation gives us an answer.

YES, HE SEES.

But it gives us something even better:

HE IS HERE.

Revelation doesn't begin by showing us a defeated church.

It begins by showing us a **glorified Jesus standing in the middle of His church.**

And if you remember nothing else from this message, remember this:

WE ARE NOT ALONE.

1. YOU CAN BE IN TROUBLE AND STILL BE IN THE WILL OF GOD

Revelation 1:9:

“I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus”

John is on Patmos.

- He’s separated from the people he loves.
- He’s removed from the churches.
- He’s isolated on an island.

But notice why he’s there.

He is there because of **“the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”**

John wasn’t on Patmos because he walked away from God.

JOHN WAS ON PATMOS BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN FAITHFUL TO GOD.

Sometimes we have this idea that if we’re following Jesus, everything ought to go smoothly.

But that’s not what the Bible teaches.

Sometimes you can be walking directly in the will of God and **still walk through trouble.**

- Joseph had a pit.
- Daniel had a lions’ den.
- The three Hebrew boys had a fiery furnace.
- Paul and Silas had a prison.
- And John had Patmos.

But...

- The pit couldn’t cancel Joseph’s purpose.
- The lions couldn’t cancel Daniel’s purpose.
- The fire couldn’t cancel the Hebrew boys’ purpose.

- The prison couldn't cancel Paul and Silas' praise.

And...

PATMOS COULDN'T CANCEL JOHN'S PURPOSE.

What looked like John's isolation became the location of God's revelation.

John describes himself as a partner with believers in affliction, kingdom, and endurance.

There's affliction but there's also a **Kingdom.**

And because we belong to the Kingdom, **we endure.**

So don't judge God's presence by your circumstances.

You may be walking through your own Patmos today.

But your Patmos does not mean God has abandoned you.

YOU MAY BE ON PATMOS, BUT YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

2. GOD STILL HAS A WORD FOR HIS CHURCH

Revelation 1:10–11:

10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

John is on Patmos...

BUT GOD IS STILL SPEAKING.

Rome could put John on an island...

but Rome couldn't keep Jesus off the island.

They could change John's location.

But they couldn't break John's connection.

They could separate John from people.

But they couldn't separate John from God.

And Jesus says:

“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches”

These were seven real churches in Asia Minor, and each one would receive a specific message from Jesus.

And those seven churches give us a picture of the church in different spiritual conditions.

1) EPHESUS: DON'T LOSE YOUR FIRST LOVE

Ephesus worked hard.

They stood for truth.

But they had left their first love.

Church, you can become so busy working for Jesus that you stop spending time with Jesus.

We can have programs.

We can have ministries.

We can have activity.

But if we lose our love for Jesus...

We've lost the heart of it all.

2) SMYRNA: REMAIN FAITHFUL IN SUFFERING

Smyrna was suffering.

Jesus didn't promise them that following Him would remove every trial.

He called them to remain faithful through the trial.

Sometimes faith doesn't keep you out of the fire.

Sometimes faith gives you the strength to walk through it.

3-4) PERGAMUM AND THYATIRA: DON'T COMPROMISE

These churches remind us that the pressure of the world can start creeping into the church.

Church, we're called to love the world...

BUT WE'RE NOT CALLED TO BECOME LIKE THE WORLD.

- Truth still matters.
- Holiness still matters.
- The Word of God still matters.

5) SARDIS: REPUTATION ISN'T ENOUGH

Sardis had a reputation for being alive, but Jesus knew what was really happening inside.

People can see our reputation.

JESUS SEES OUR HEART.

6) PHILADELPHIA: LITTLE STRENGTH, GREAT FAITHFULNESS

Philadelphia didn't have great strength, but they remained faithful.

Never underestimate what Jesus can do through a church that may have **little strength but great faithfulness.**

7) LAODICEA: DON'T BECOME LUKEWARM

Laodicea had become comfortable.

Neither hot nor cold.

Just lukewarm.

And Jesus called them back to wholehearted fellowship with Him.

Seven churches.

Seven different situations.

Seven different struggles.

BUT ONE JESUS KNEW THEM ALL.

- He knew their strengths.
- He knew their weaknesses.
- He knew their suffering.
- He knew their compromise.
- He knew their faithfulness.

And...

JESUS KNOWS THIS CHURCH TOO.

The greatest question isn't:

“What does the community think about our church?”

The greatest question is:

“JESUS, WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT US?”

3. WE NEED A FRESH VISION OF JESUS

John hears the voice, then he turns around.

Revelation 1:12–16:

12 “Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.”

John sees the **glorified Jesus**.

And these descriptions aren’t merely telling us what Jesus looked like.

THEY ARE TELLING US WHO JESUS IS.

The original message describes Him as regal, powerful, fierce, and radiating with glory.

Let’s look at what John sees.

“ONE LIKE THE SON OF MAN”

John sees:

“One like the Son of Man.”

This points us to Jesus as the promised and reigning Messiah.

Jesus isn’t just another teacher.

He’s not simply another prophet.

JESUS IS KING.

He isn’t trying to gain authority.

He already has authority.

“A ROBE...WITH A GOLDEN SASH”

John sees Jesus dressed in a robe with a golden sash around His chest.

It is a picture of **dignity, majesty, and authority.**

- Jesus is not defeated.
- Jesus isn't nervous about what's happening in the world.
- Jesus isn't pacing around heaven saying:

“What am I going to do now?”

JESUS IS STILL ON THE THRONE.

When everything around us seems out of control...

Jesus is still in control.

“HIS HAIR...WHITE AS WOOL, WHITE AS SNOW”

This points toward His **purity, wisdom, and eternal nature.**

- Jesus knows what was.
- Jesus knows what is.
- And Jesus knows what is coming.

When you don't know what to do...

JESUS DOES.

When you can't see tomorrow...

JESUS CAN.

You can trust the wisdom of Jesus even when you don't understand the ways of Jesus.

“HIS EYES LIKE A FIERY FLAME”

That speaks of His penetrating vision and righteous judgment.

JESUS SEES EVERYTHING.

He sees beyond appearances.

- He sees beyond our Sunday morning smile.
- He sees beyond our reputation.
- He sees what nobody else sees.

You can fool people...

BUT YOU CANNOT FOOL JESUS.

That isn't only a warning.

It's also comforting.

Because Jesus doesn't only see our sin.

HE SEES OUR SUFFERING.

- He sees the tears nobody else sees.
- He sees the prayers nobody else hears.
- He sees the battles nobody else knows you're fighting.

Somebody needs to hear this:

JESUS SEES YOU.

"HIS FEET WERE LIKE FINE BRONZE"

This gives us a picture of **strength, stability, purity, and judgment.**

Everything around us may be shaking...

BUT JESUS ISN'T SHAKING.

Governments change.

Cultures change.

Economies change.

People change.

Circumstances change.

JESUS DOES NOT CHANGE.

When everything underneath you feels unstable...

stand on the One who cannot be moved.

“HIS VOICE LIKE...CASCADING WATERS”

Have you ever stood beside powerful rushing water?

You don't have to strain to hear it.

It overwhelms every other sound.

John is telling us:

THE VOICE OF JESUS HAS AUTHORITY.

- Culture has a voice.
- Fear has a voice.
- Your past has a voice.
- The enemy has a voice.

But there is a voice greater than every other voice.

WHEN JESUS SPEAKS, WE LISTEN.

“SEVEN STARS IN HIS RIGHT HAND”

Verse 20 will tell us that the seven stars represent the angels or messengers of the seven churches.

But don't miss where they are.

THEY ARE IN HIS HAND.

Jesus doesn't just see His church.

Jesus doesn't just walk among His church.

JESUS HOLDS HIS CHURCH.

“A SHARP DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD CAME FROM HIS MOUTH”

Notice where the sword comes from, **His mouth.**

This points toward the power and authority of **His Word.**

His Word exposes...

- His Word corrects.
- His Word judges.
- His Word changes hearts.
- His Word gives life.

The original sermon also connects the sword with the strength and power coming from Christ and His Word.

- Opinions change.
- Culture changes.
- Popular beliefs change.

BUT THE WORD OF GOD STILL STANDS.

“HIS FACE WAS SHINING LIKE THE SUN”

That's **glory.**

- John had seen Jesus tired.
- John had seen Jesus hungry.
- John had seen Jesus rejected.
- John had seen Jesus crucified.

But that's not what John sees now.

NOW JOHN SEES JESUS IN GLORY!

- The cross wasn't the end.
- The tomb wasn't the end.
- Death wasn't the end.

JESUS IS ALIVE!

- Jesus is victorious.
- Jesus is glorified.
- Jesus is reigning.

Maybe that's what the church needs again!

A FRESH VISION OF JESUS.

- Not a small Jesus.
- Not a weak Jesus.
- Not a defeated Jesus.

But...

- **Jesus the King.**
- **Jesus the Judge.**
- **Jesus the Savior.**
- **Jesus the Living One.**

JESUS THE LORD.

4. "DON'T BE AFRAID"

Revelation 1:17–20:

17" When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. 19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. 20 As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

- John knew Jesus.
- John walked with Jesus.
- John heard Jesus teach.

- John watched Jesus perform miracles.
- John saw the empty tomb.

But when John sees Jesus in His glory...

HE FALLS AT HIS FEET.

- John doesn't argue.
- John doesn't negotiate.
- John doesn't give Jesus' suggestions.
- **John falls down.**

Because when you truly see Jesus for who He is...

WORSHIP BECOMES THE NATURAL RESPONSE.

But then something beautiful happens.

Jesus reaches down.

Verse 17 says:

"He laid his right hand on me saying, Fear not, I am the first and the last"

Think about that.

The One whose face shines like the sun...

touches John.

The One whose voice sounds like rushing waters...

touches John.

The King of kings reaches down to one frightened man and says:

"DON'T BE AFRAID."

2 Timothy 1:7

"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

Somebody needs those words today.

- Maybe you're afraid about your family.
- Maybe you're afraid about your health.
- Maybe you're afraid about your finances.

- Maybe you're afraid about your future.
- Maybe you're carrying something nobody else knows about.

Jesus says:

"DON'T BE AFRAID."

Not because nothing difficult will ever happen.

But because **whatever happens, Jesus will still be Jesus.**

Then He says:

"I am the First and the Last."

In other words:

I was there before your problem started, and I'll still be there when your problem is over.

Before this battle ever began, **Jesus was there.**

And when this season is over...

JESUS WILL STILL BE THERE.

5. JESUS HAS THE KEYS

Then Jesus says:

"I am the Living One. I was dead, but look, I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades."

THAT'S THE GOSPEL!

"I was dead." ... That's Friday.

"But look, I am alive." ... That's Sunday morning!

They put Him on a cross...

but He didn't stay there.

They put Him in a tomb...

but He didn't stay there.

They rolled a stone in front of the grave...

but that stone couldn't hold Him.

ON THE THIRD DAY JESUS GOT UP!

And He says:

"I hold the keys of death and Hades."

Keys represent **authority**.

The one with the keys has control.

And Jesus says:

"I HAVE THE KEYS."

- Not Satan.
- Not your enemies.
- Not the government.
- Not the economy.
- Not your circumstances.
- Not even death.

JESUS HAS THE KEYS!

Think about what Jesus is saying to John:

"Why are you afraid of something I've already conquered?"

We're afraid of tomorrow...

Jesus already holds tomorrow.

We're afraid of death...

Jesus already defeated death.

We're afraid of what we cannot control...

but Jesus is still in control.

So, remember:

- FEAR DOESN'T HAVE THE KEYS.
- YOUR PROBLEM DOESN'T HAVE THE KEYS.
- YOUR PAST DOESN'T HAVE THE KEYS.
- THE DEVIL DOESN'T HAVE THE KEYS.

JESUS HAS THE KEYS!

6. JESUS IS AMONG HIS CHURCH AND HOLDING HIS CHURCH

Verse 20.

Jesus explains the vision:

“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

Go back to what John saw.

Where was Jesus?

AMONG THE LAMPSTANDS.

What do the lampstands represent?

THE CHURCHES.

And where were the stars?

IN HIS RIGHT HAND.

The sermon summarizes this picture powerfully: **Jesus is among the church and holding the church.**

That's the picture I want us to leave here with today.

JESUS IS AMONG US.

That's His **presence.**

JESUS IS HOLDING US.

That's His **protection.**

JESUS HAS THE KEYS.

That's His **authority.**

JESUS IS ALIVE FOREVERMORE.

That's our **victory.**

Put it all together:

- His eyes say... He sees us.
- His feet say... He is unshakable.
- His voice says... He has authority.
- His sword says... His Word has power.
- His face says... He is glorious.
- His hand says... He is holding His church.
- And the keys say... He is in control.

So, what's the message?

WE ARE NOT ALONE!

CONCLUSION: LOOK AGAIN

John could have looked around Patmos and said:

"I'm alone."

"I'm forgotten."

"It's over."

But John heard a voice.

And when John turned around—

HE SAW JESUS.

Maybe somebody needs to **look again.**

You've been looking at your problem.

Look again.

You've been looking at what you've lost.

Look again.

You've been looking at your family.

Look again.

You've been looking at the doctor's report.

Look again.

You've been looking at your finances.

Look again.

You've been looking at everything that could go wrong tomorrow.

LOOK AGAIN!

Because maybe the greatest thing you need today isn't for God to immediately change what's around you.

Maybe you need God to change **what you're looking at.**

John looked at Patmos...

but then he saw **Jesus.**

And Jesus was saying:

"DON'T BE AFRAID."

Why?

"I am the First and the Last."

Don't be afraid.

"I am the Living One."

Don't be afraid.

"I was dead, but look, I am alive forever and ever."

Don't be afraid.

"I hold the keys."

- That's enough to keep going.

- That's enough to keep praying.
- That's enough to keep believing.
- That's enough to keep serving.
- That's enough to keep worshiping.

Because Jesus is saying:

- "I AM HERE."

- "I AM ALIVE."

- "I AM IN CONTROL."

- "I HAVE THE KEYS."

"AND I AM HOLDING MY CHURCH."

- We may face affliction.
- We may walk through valleys.
- We may experience our own Patmos.
- We may not understand everything happening around us.

But we know this:

- **Jesus sees us.**
- **Jesus is with us.**
- **Jesus is alive.**
- **Jesus is powerful.**
- **Jesus is among His church.**
- **Jesus is holding His church.**
- **Jesus has the keys.**

And because He does...

WE ARE NOT ALONE!