

Revelation 3:7

1/3/16

Sunday Morning

**Rev.1:1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

V.2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.

V.3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

V.4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: 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,

V.5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

V.6 and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

V.7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

V.8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

**V.10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,

V.11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, 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."

V.12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

V.13 and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

V.14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.

V.15 His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters.

V.16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

V.17 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,

V.18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

V.19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

**Rev.3:7 (NP)**

**Rev.3:7** "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

V.8 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

V.9 'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and **make them know that I have loved you**.

V.10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

V.11 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

V.12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

V.13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

3:7 "And to the angel of *the church in Philadelphia* write: *He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David*, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

1. "the church in Philadelphia"
  - a) Philadelphia was distinguished from the other cities in that it was the mission city of the Greeks
    - i) Its mission was to Hellenize the world
  - b) Just as the city was a mission city for the Greek culture – So the Church was a mission church
    - i) It represents the mission church of the last days,
    - ii) That would be the time frame we live in
2. "He who is holy, who is true"
  - a. He is the only one who is holy and true –
  - b. He is "true" in the sense that nothing else can supplant Him
  - c. Nothing is coming later w/ different news
    - i. There will never be "another gospel"

**Jn.14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

3. "who has the key of David"
  - a. Christ alone has the key of David – not the Roman Catholic Church
 

**Mt.28:18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "**All** authority has been given to **Me** in heaven and on earth.

**V.8 (NP)**

V.8 *I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*

- 1) "I know your deeds"
  - a) **Good** deeds
  - b) **One thing unique to this Church** – They **didn't** have a **misconception** about who they were
    - i) They didn't have a misconception b/c they knew the Word of God
  
- 2) "Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut"
  - a) "I have put before you an open door..."
    - i) **This could mean** – the Church has never had a greater opportunity to share the Gospel than now
  
    - ii) **Or it could be speaking of** – the Door to an intimate relationship w/ the Father
      - (1) Believers have never had the opportunity to **know** God better than now
      - (2) There are **study aids** – many different translations
      - (3) More people can read now than ever
      - (4) Bible translated into over 500 languages by 400 AD  
**\*Dan's paper on Bible\***
      - (5) By 600 AD the Church of Rome had eliminated all translations of the people
      - (6) By 600 AD only 1 language – Latin
      - (7) The Bible was written in Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic
      - (8) The Roman Church had killed anyone trying to write in vernacular
      - (9) The Roman Church forbid its own priest from reading Bible
      - (10) We have an open door to know God better & share the knowledge of Him more!
      - (11) No other people have had the chance we have had to know God's Word the way we can know it
      - (12) It is very unlikely that your grandparents had the chance to know the Bible as well as we do
      - (13) It is knowledge of God & obedience to it that **empowers life**
  
  - b) **This much we know for sure** "an open door" – must surely mean at the least – "**an opportunity**"
    - i) We are starting a new year – You are still alive – this means that you have the opportunity to live for Christ
    - ii) **A good New Year resolution would be to get to know Christ better than ever before!**

- (1) It is **the Word of God that gives us wisdom to live for Him**
- (2) **The world is perishing for lack of wisdom!**
- (3) **And we have it at our finger tips!**

**1 Cor.2:13**(NLT) When we tell you these things, we do **not** use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.  
 V.14 But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.  
 V.15 Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others.  
 V.16 For, "Who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But **we understand these things**, for **we have the mind of Christ**.

iii) **How valuable is studying the Bible to you?**

V.8 x I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

- 3) "because you have a little power"
  - a) Some translations show this as a condemnation but it is clear that this is a commendation to them
    - i) "because" - ὅτι = because at beginning of the phrase
    - ii) "and" – kai – at end of phrase
- 4) "and have kept My word and have not denied My name"
  - a) How is a church supposed to measure their success?
    - i) Can't do it by number of converts – Muslims would win that one
    - ii) Baptisms? Mormons would be very successful
    - iii) Can't do it by ornate buildings – Romanism would win that one
    - iv) How about memorizing Scripture – some of the most ill-natured people know Bible verses – notice I didn't say they know Bible – I said they know Bible verses – big difference
    - v) How about **knowing** His Word & **keeping** His Word  
**Rev.1:3** Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
- 5) "and not denying His name"
  - a) He is describing a lifestyle

- b) You must think thru what it means to be a believer  
 c) God lays out for Joshua what that means

**Josh.1:7**<sup>(God told Joshua)</sup> "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.

8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

- i) Impossible to live right w/out thinking right! –  
 ii) **Meditating on God's Word** – you must spend time "thinking" about what the Bible says

**Mt.7:24** "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and **acts** on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and **does not act on them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."

**Mt.28:20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- iii) **I think meditation is as / more valuable than reading verses**

- iv) Christ made it clear what was important

**LK.11:27** While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed."

28 But He said, "**On the contrary**, blessed are those who **hear** the word of God and **observe** it." **James 1:22 (NP)**

**James 1:22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

24 for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

V.9 'Behold, *I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.*

1) "I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan"

a) In Paul's & John's day the biggest enemy was religion

b) In days to come our biggest enemy will be religion

i) Because a good religion will allow anyone to go to heaven

ii) **The Pope wrote:** "The question for those who do not believe in God is to follow their own conscience. Sin, even for a non-believer, is when one goes against one's conscience. To listen and to follow your conscience means that you understand the difference between good and evil." He said that the "mercy of God has no limits" and encompassed even non-believers.

2) "I will make them...bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you"

a) This has great meaning to the person tormented by religious fanatics such as those who cut off the head of anyone who doesn't accept their religion

b) Believers have always been considered on the lowest stratus as far as the world is concerned

c) The day will come when that error of that will be seen for what it is

d) But something bigger is stated here:

**V.9** "...make them know that **I have loved you**"

e) You don't have worth / value b/c you love God

i) Don't make too much of fact – that you love God – isn't big deal that you love Him

ii) The big deal is – "**He** loves you!"

iii) That gives you worth, purpose, direction

iv) All of your worth is found in fact that He loves you!

V.10 (NP)

V.10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, *I also will keep you from the hour of testing*, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

- 1) "I also will keep you from the hour of testing...come upon the whole world"
  - a) This is reference to the Tribulation – 7 year period where God judges the world for rejecting His Son
  - b) The Church is not going thru the Tribulation
  - c) But God warns the Church to be careful in **V.11**

V.11 '*I am coming quickly, hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

- 1) "I am coming quickly"
  - a) This word means quickly / rapidly
  - b) We get our word tachometer from it (used to measure rpm's of motor)
  
- 2) "hold fast what you have"
  - a) The Christian life can't be lived passively
  - b) No one can successful live life w/out working at it
  - c) There is no resting place in this life
  - d) One interesting lesson learned is – you don't ever arrive in this life – the battle continues thru life
  
- 3) "so that no one will take your crown"
  - a) It isn't a picture of another believer taking what is yours
  - b) It is a picture of the enemy causing you to forfeit what is yours
  - c) We are in a war!!! Never forget that every day is a battle
    - i) We live in the flesh but we are at war spiritually
 

**2 Cor.10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,

<sup>4</sup> for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

<sup>5</sup> We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

**Eph.6:10** Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
    - ii) Many believers are defrauded of what God has for them
 

**Col.2:18(NLT)** Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud,

- d) You can't quit living the Christian life until it's over & be successful
  - i) Never slow down! Never give up!
- e) It is in the subjunctive mood – you can quit holding fast if you choose
  - i) No one is going to **make** you continue in the faith
  - ii) But that is a recipe for disaster

V.12 'He who overcomes, *I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God*, and he will not go out from it anymore; and *I will write on him the name of My God*, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

1) "I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God"

- a) No one knows for sure what this means
  - i) It was a very common thing to construct a pillar for someone of notoriety / famous – as a monument to them or their deeds
  - ii) The term is used in N.T. when used of people of prominence  
**Gal.2:9** and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we *might go* to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.
  - iii) May well mean God will make a pillar for those who live well for Him
  - iv) It may also mean that they are immovable – b/c of earthquakes
    - (1) A double negative is used – "...he will **not** go out from it anymore..."
  - v) Whatever it is will be good!

2) "I will write on him the name of My God... the name of the city of My God... and My new name"

- a) I take this to mean names that are not known by others – special names for that person (speaks of intimacy)

V.13 'He who has an ear, *let him hear what the Spirit says* to the churches.

1) "let him hear what the Spirit says"

- a) Please listen to what God is saying to you!