
Wednesday Night Faith Fellowship Meeting – 07/14/2021

Today's Message: Study – The Book of Revelation, Part 4 –
The Churches

Text: Revelation 1:19; Revelation 1:18-20; Revelation 1:11; 2 Peter 3:12-13; Isaiah 24:22;
Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 3:5; Revelation 3:6; Psalms 107:9; and 2 Timothy 4:2

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Notes: www.spiritjournals.org -or- <https://chrismc77.wixsite.com/spiritjournals/>

Bible Translation: King James Version

Prior to the Teaching, comments Revelation 1:19 by Chris:

We're gonna do a summary of the seven churches we're about to study. Because we're entering into the "things that which are." John was given that outline in Revelation 1:19 where the Lord gave him literally the outline of Revelation.

Revelation 1:19:

Write the things which thou hast seen...

John saw a present tense vision of Jesus on that island [Patmos]. Jesus wanted John to record those events that he saw when he saw Jesus.

Revelation 1:19:

Write ... the things which are...

Which means the Church Age. That's where you get Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Revelation chapters 4 and 5 which is the rapture, which is yet to come, it's yet future.

Revelation 1:19:

...and the things which shall be hereafter;

Jesus was saying after the resurrection, I want you to write the things that are coming after the resurrection, after the rapture. That's chapters 6 through 19. That is the Great Tribulation period which has to do with the national Israel. Revelation chapter 20 deals with The Kingdom Age.

Revelation chapters 21 and 22 deals with the Age to Come following the Great White Throne of Judgment. The Great White Throne of Judgment ends the time on earth that we call "This Age." It's at that judgment that God will purge the entire universe of all rebellion because those that stand at that judgment are doomed forever. There's no salvations at the Great White Throne of Judgment.

Death and Hell will be cast into the Lake of Fire. After that, God himself, God the Father will literally come back down to this earth and dwell on this earth again, just like he dwelt in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve.

Those are things yet future. Those are things that we hope for.

2 Peter 3:12-13:

¹²Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

We will inhabit that new earth as saints. All those that got saved during the Millennial will inhabit that earth. We will have glorified bodies, those of us that were in the first resurrection. There will be people saved during the Millennial and they will enter into this atmosphere.

There will be no rebellion after that Great White Throne of Judgment.

Isaiah 24:22:

And they shall be gathered together, *as* prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.

Isaiah 65:17:

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

This will be a reminder of what rebellion costs. It will get people's attention.

Revelation 1:18-20 – The Commission

¹⁸I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. ¹⁹Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; ²⁰The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:11 – The Churches

¹¹Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Teaching Outline:

- Review of The Commission (Rev 1:18-20)
 - Review of The Churches (Rev 1:11)
 - The Role of the Priest in the Tabernacle and the Temple
 - The Role of the Pastor
 - Review of the Seven Churches
 - Reminder of The OUTLINE of Revelation (Rev 1:19)
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Outline:

- *Review of The Commission (Rev 1:18-20)*

Revelation 1:18-20 – The Commission

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Outline:

- *Review of The Church (Rev 1:11)*

Revelation verse 1:11 is where Jesus tells John of what those seven churches represent. Jesus gives an outline of those churches that He is sending this letter to.

Revelation 1:11 – The Churches

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Jesus is about to speak to those seven churches directly. Not just to the church, but He's gonna speak to the angels of the church, or the pastors. That should tell us a little bit about Christ. It should tell us a little bit about His concern for His church. He's going to address the leadership of these churches.



These are the seven churches of Asia Minor. These seven churches are in the area of modern Turkey, the western part of Turkey. Jesus lists Pergamos, Thyatira, Smyrna, Ephesus, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Those are the seven churches that Jesus addresses these letter to. These are specific letters. You read about four of them in Revelation 2 and you read about the other three Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea in Revelation 3.

Laodicea is the final message. The absolute final message from Jesus to the church.

There are two churches, Smyrna and Philadelphia, that He had nothing bad to say about. Laodicea He had nothing good to say about.

In every church that Jesus speaks to, He greets them with the term, "I know thy works..." Every single church He speaks to, that's where He starts. He starts off telling them, I know what you're doing. I know your works. He commends them for working for the Kingdom. Many times He gives them a commendation, a blessing, and something positive. But He also, for five of the churches, He had something very negative to say about in addition to the commendation. Laodicea it was all commendation. He was very upset with that church and that spirit in that church.

To Philadelphia and Smyrna, Smyrna was the church of the martyrs and Philadelphia was the church of the missionaries, He had nothing bad to say about those churches.

But in addition Jesus gives an attribute of Himself and declares Himself to each church with one attribute individually of different churches.

Another thing He does is that He promises them that overcome, a certain prize, and certain reward, and that reward is different from church to church.

Revelation 3:5:

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

The final thing that He ends all the letters with:

Revelation 3:6:

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

He ends every letter to every church with a warning or you can call it an admonition, or both. **The ramifications of the church not hearing the spirit of God is deadly.** Without the Holy Spirit speaking to the church you have no church. Without the church understanding what the Spirit is saying to the church, we're in deep trouble. Deception always follows what is not of the Spirit, will always wind up in deception. It will always wind up in legalism. It will always put the church in dire straits. Without the Holy Spirit, the church is in darkness.

That is why, when John turned around and he saw those seven golden candlesticks, the church was portrayed as light. The golden candlesticks were part of the Old Testament ministry of the High Priest. They would go into the Temple and the Tabernacle, twice a day, nine o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon.

Outline:

- *The Role of the Priest in the Tabernacle and the Temple*

The Priest would clean the soot out of those lights. Jesus talks a great deal about the candlesticks. He tells the churches if you don't repent I'm gonna remove your candlestick. Under the Old Testament economy, the Priest would go into the Holy Place and they would take the soot out of the candlesticks. They would make sure that that the light would not go out. That was their job. If that light went out, there was no way they could see. It was enclosed in the Tabernacle. Without that light the Priest would walk in darkness. It was their job to not only take the soot out but to fresh oil in that lamp.

Think of the ramifications of that. Their job was **to remove the soot** which is the stuff that makes light go dim. **There's a spiritual lesson in that.** If we don't get the soot out of the church, if we don't get the soot out of our light, our light is going to go dim. The churches light is gonna go dim. That is a lot of the reason why the church is in the mess it's in because there is a lot of the world's soot and the world's influence in those candlesticks. That is pure olive oil.



When you see that priest, that is what he did twice a day. That was one of the most important functions because without that light, the priests couldn't see. There was no other external light that came into that Holy Place.

There's no external light that comes into the church except the Holy Spirit! Whatever external light that comes into the church that is not the Holy Ghost is false light and it will lead the church into darkness.

Then they would trim the wicks of that candlestick at 9am and 3pm. Trimming the wicks would make sure that the soot was out and it would make sure there was fresh oil in the lamp (the church needs fresh oil). This is a daily occurrence where you trim the wick, get the soot out, you pour fresh oil in the lamp, and you light that light. Because the light of the Holy Ghost illuminates something that's on the other side of the priest, which was the Table of Showbread.

The Table of Showbread is the food the priest ate. That is a type of the Word of God. The Holy Ghost illuminates the Word of God. We are the New Testament tabernacle of God. We are the New Testament Temple.

That light represents Jesus. It represents the influence of the church on the world, because Jesus was seen standing in the midst of these seven candlesticks. There was only one in the Holy Place. There was only one in the Tabernacle.

But when John saw the Lord, he saw Him standing in the middle of those candlesticks which represented the seven churches of Asia Minor. These are artist rendition only of what John saw.



Outline:

- *The Role of the Pastor*

The church and its influence on this earth and the church's influence on this nation, the reason that we're seeing the spiritual condition of America is because the light of that golden lampstand is going out. The New Testament priests, which are believers, we're letting the light of the Gospel go out in this country. Pastors are letting these lights go out.



Jesus was not addressing evangelists. He was not addressing prophets. He was not addressing anybody else. He was addressing the pastors of these churches. There are some times later on in the Old Covenant He rebuked prophets.

The prophetic and pastoral calling is so key right now in these last days.

It's the pastors that aren't preaching the Gospel. Prophets do not establish doctrine, pastors do. The pastor is the one that directs the church into doctrinal truth that keeps the church grounded. The prophet comes to confirm that doctrine and to confirm that the light is of God. The prophet is not the source of that.

The pastors are the one that dictate and navigate the doctrinal direction of the church. The prophet confirms that doctrinal stance by confirming what is being taught is from God.

The Spirit and The Word agree!!

Psalms 107:9:

For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

Jesus addressed the pastors of these churches because they are the guardians of the sheep. They are guardians of the doctrine that is preached. They are the guardians of what goes on in the church. They are the guardians of order.

Jesus didn't address the prophets, the evangelist, the teachers, or the apostles, **he addressed the pastors.**

The doctrine has been established by The Word of God. It is that pastor's job to KNOW The Word of God. That's why Jesus addressed the pastors.

The seven stars are the seven pastors. The term angels mean pastors in this case. Jesus spoke to the pastors of those churches, not the prophets. Jesus gets down to the nitty gritty of things He's happy about and things He's angry about. He warns them if you don't correct this I'm gonna remove that candlestick from you. That candlestick is their influence. He said I'm gonna take away your candlestick. He even warned one church I'm gonna throw you into great tribulation. He deals with Jezebel. He deals with the fact that Balaam caused people to commit fornication. He deals with the seducing ungodly spirit that's in most churches. This prostituting of the Gospel and these spiritual whores that are out there prostituting the Gospel.

It has to do with the Age of the Church we're living in now.

That lampstand represents you, the believer. It represents the light of the church. It represents the light of the Gospel. It represents the Holy Spirit that illuminates the other side of the Tabernacle.

Inside of the Tabernacle, on the other side of that priest, there was a table where there would be loaves of bread that the priest would eat. That typified the Word of God. Jesus said I'm the bread of heaven. The Word of God is bread to our soul.

The reason people "prophet hop" is because they are not being fed. They think they are but they're not. Because the only thing that will feed your soul is the power of the Word of God! Today's prophets are talking about current events.

That's why these lampstands are important that Jesus walked in the middle of. This is what the narrative of the church should be about. It's doctrinal truth! That's the only thing that's gonna keep your soul fed.

The Spirit of God illuminates the Word of God. The Word of God confirms the Spirit of God.

When God establishes a true New Testament church, there will be an apostolic influence in the church. There will be an evangelistic outreach in that church. There will be teachers who are God-ordained, gifted and anointed to teach the Word of God and unveil the Word of God to people. There will be prophetic people in the congregation that know how to pray and intercede.

The lampstand is the Holy Spirit. The Table of Showbread is the Word. The Holy Spirit and the Word agree. The Word confirms the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ had seven stars in His hand that were the pastors of those seven churches.

Only the Word of God can fill your soul. Only doctrinal truth can fill your soul.

The doctrinal direction of the church is guided by the pastor. It's guided by those stars that were in Jesus' right hand. The doctrinal direction of any church, whether it's in a building or in a show or whatever it may be, is directed and **navigated by the pastor.**

2 Timothy 4:2:

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering **and doctrine.**

What you need is your soul equipped and filled with the Holy Spirit that illuminates the Word of God. It's called bread to your soul. It is the type of that Table of Showbread. **That is what you need!**

In these letters, Jesus lays open these seven churches. **He deals with their doctrine.** It's important to God what is being taught to his sheep. It is important to God what's being said by the pastors.



Inside the Holy Place in the Tabernacle/Temple



Table of Showbread

The Holy Place includes the Golden Lampstand (Menorah), the Alter of Worship, and the Table of Showbread. Without the Golden Lampstand you can't get to the Alter of Worship.

In these letters you're gonna see a Christ that is not happy about false doctrine. He's not happy with what's happening to the sheep of His pasture. He's not happy at these pastor's and their flippant attitude when it comes to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

The pastor is the key. He is the Shepard under Christ of the sheep. Whatever happens in that church is ultimately the pastor's responsibility. If those sheep are hurt and he allows a wolf into that sheepfold, that's on him. You can blame the wolf but it's the pastor's fault.

Outline:

- *Review of the Seven Churches*

Some Bible scholars believe are seven dispensations or seven periods of church history starting with the Book of Acts. Even though all the admonitions of these seven churches can be applied to the current Church Age. This is an outline of the Church History in the natural.

1. Ephesus – Apostolic Church – Ended 100 AD
2. Smyrna – Martyr Church – 100-300 AD – Rome hurled 10 Bloody Persecutions against The Church
3. Pergamos – State Church – 300-500 AD – Constantine the Great Legalized Christianity making it the State Religion of Roman Empire – Invasion of Paganism into The Church
4. Thyatira – Papal Church 500 AD-Present – Rome Assumed Power over The Church – Pope
5. Sardis – Luther – 1500 AD – Justification of Faith
6. Philadelphia – Missionary Church – 1800-1900 AD
7. Laodicea – Present Day Apostate to Rapture

The true church of Jesus Christ is every born-again, saint of God, washed in the Blood of the Lamb, filled with the power of the Holy Ghost. Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Name written down in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Christopher McDonald "nugget" –

Personalities never sustained Revivals. Revivals are never sustained by Personalities.

Adam to Christ is 4000 years

Church has been around for 1991 years

Human History has been around for 5991 years

Outline:

- *Reminder of The OUTLINE of Revelation (Rev 1:19)*

The OUTLINE of the Book of Revelation (1:19)

1. WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN – The Vision of Christ
2. The Things Which ARE – The Churches (PRESENT) – The Church Age
3. The Things That Shall Be Hereafter – Concerns Things AFTER The Rapture of The Church:
 - a. The Great Tribulation, The Anti-Christ
 - b. 144,000 Witnesses, Plagues, Mark of the Beast
 - c. False Prophets, Armageddon

Chapters 1 – The Things Which HAVE SEEN

Chapters 2-3 – The Things Which ARE

Chapters 4-22 – The Things HEREAFTER

THE CHURCH IS NOT SEEN AFTER CHAPTER 5!

Revelation 1:20

The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.