
Wednesday Night Faith Fellowship Meeting – 07/28/2021

Today's Message: Study – The Book of Revelation, Part 5 – The Candlesticks

Text: Revelation 1:18-20; John 10:27; John 3:16; Matthew 28:20; John 19:27; Revelation 1:11-13; Revelation 1:12-16; 2 Samuel 15:6; 2 Samuel 18:9-10; and Acts 20:28-30

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

Bible Translation: King James Version

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.

Teaching Outline:

- Review of The Commission (Rev 1:18-20)
- Review of The Churches (Rev 1:11)
 1. Ephesus – The Apostolic Church
 2. Smyrna – Persecuted Church
 3. Pergamos – State/Constantine Church
 4. Thyatira – Papal Church
 5. Sardis – Dead Church (Reformation)
 6. Philadelphia – Missionary Church
 7. Laodicea – Apostate Church/End Time!
- The 10 Similarities of The Churches (items in gray to be discussed on 8/4/21):
 1. One or More Details of Christ's Description (Rev 1:12-16).
 2. Each is addressed to the pastor.
 3. Each Church is commended for its works except Laodicea – She Had None.

4. Each Church is rebuked except Smyrna and Philadelphia.
5. Each Church is Commanded to Repent Except Smyrna, Thyatira, and Philadelphia. Sardis has sin of which to repent, but it not commanded to do so.
6. Warnings of judgment are given to all the churches except Smyrna and Philadelphia.
7. Each church was more corrupt than a preceding one except Ephesus, Smyrna and Philadelphia.
 - Ephesus was commended for ten things
 - Philadelphia was condemned for ten things.
8. Promises to overcomers are in each.
9. Each End with an Admonition TO HEAR “What The Spirit Sayeth to The Church.”
10. John is told to write in each case.

When he finishes one letter he is directed whom to write and what to write, until the last is completed.

Then he is told to write “the things which shall be hereafter” the churches (Revelation 1:19; 4:1).

Outline:

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

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 [pastors]: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

This was written to seven churches of Asia Minor. What you see in verse 19 is the outline of Revelation. If you can understand and grasp Revelation 1:19, you can understand this book a great deal.

If you read The Word, you’ll stay out of deception. If you read The Word of God you won’t be deceived in these last days.

The outline of Revelation 1:19 is breaking it up about “the things which you have seen,” that was the vision of Christ, that was the current.

There’s ten similarities that are common denominators in these churches. But the thing that John had seen up to that point was a glorified vision of Christ. John had laid his head on the Master’s bosom just some 60 years before. John had this vision around 90 AD. John was a young man is 30 AD probably 33 AD when Jesus was crucified. So there had been about a 60-year period in between the time John had last seen Jesus in the flesh and this grand vision he had on the Isle of Patmos when he heard a voice as of a trumpet.

As a voice of many waters. When that voice speaks to your heart, it sounds just like that. When Jesus is speaking to your heart, you literally as John did fall at your feet as dead.

There is something **majestic**, kingly about the voice of Christ. His voice makes the difference. We're His sheep and we know our shepard's way.

John 10:27:

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

If you're His sheep, if you're His child, that voice resonates in our spirits. He speaks to us through the Holy Spirit. He speaks to us through His word. He speaks to us through the five-fold ministry gifts that He's placed in the body of Christ.

But that voice of His, that powerful voice of His that John heard when he turned around to see on that island that made John **fall at His feet as dead**.

John saw Him in His glorified state. Jesus began to tell John, "John I want you to write down what I'm about to show you." Because God gave this revelation of the end times to Christ who then gave it to an angel who would then give it to John. In this case Jesus came down to that island Himself and He said, "John I want you to write what you see. I want you to write the things that you have seen."

Jesus is speaking to His church. He wants us to know the things which we have seen and heard and share them with this world that is lost. That's the message of The Gospel. That's the message of the Glorified Christ. That same Christ that John saw had nail prints in His hands. He had nail prints in His feet. He had a pierced side out of which flowed blood and water.

That same Glorified Christ that John saw extends love and mercy to a world without Him.

John 3:16:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

It is not a verse that we need to take for granted because that's what separates mankind from eternal hell – The Son of God. Jesus and the Cross. The Cross of Christ. What He did for us there. **It literally stands between man and eternal hell** – the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Matthew 28:20:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, **even** unto the end of the world. Amen.

John was the only one of the 12 disciples that stayed with Jesus all the way to the end. It was to John that the Lord gave the responsibility of taking care of Jesus' earthly mother, Mary.

John 19:27:

Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

Revelation 1:19:

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Outline:

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

Jesus had John write seven letters to churches in Asia Minor.

Revelation 1:11-13:

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. ¹²And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; ¹³And in the midst of **the seven candlesticks *one like unto the Son of man***, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. John saw Jesus standing in the middle of these candlesticks.



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.

Everything in Revelation for the most part is explained to the Beloved [John]. Any time John would see something and he didn't understand it, and would ask the angel, and he would ask Christ himself, what's the meaning of this. Because Christ would appear to John a few more times in Revelation. But the angel that John was sent to give him this Revelation, if John didn't understand it, he would say, 'what is that I'm looking at?' the angel would always tell him.

That speaks to us that God does not want you in the dark about this book. This book should not be intimidating anyone and it does. If you study it and read it, there's a blessing for you. There's nothing here that God wants to hide. He wants you to know what's ahead. For the in-depth serious Bible student that wants to know what God's plan is for these last days, he is wide open.

Revelation is wide open for you because even Jesus even explains to John the mystery of the seven stars.

Revelation 1:20:

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

Then Christ gives him the interpretation.

Revelation 1:20 (cont):

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Whatever Jesus shows John, He's going to explain it.

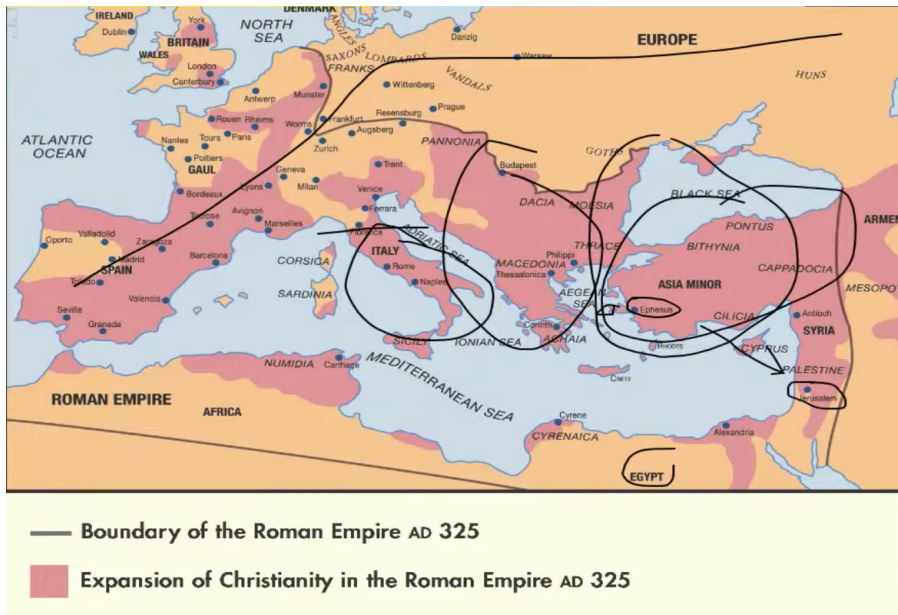


Modern day Turkey which is the area where the seven churches are located.

Jesus is addressing Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum (Pergamos in your Bible), Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

Nobody knows why these churches were chosen.

The only church on this list that is mentioned in The Word of God other than this passage in Revelation 2 and Revelation 3 is Ephesus. The church of Ephesus was the church that John likely founded and Paul founded together. Timothy took over the pastoral duties of Ephesus and that's where you get the first and second letter of Timothy. It was instruction by Paul to this young man, this disciple of his, to give him encouragement in the faith.





Ephesus is the only church that is mentioned in any other passage of the Bible other than Revelation 2 and 3.

There's a letter to the Colossians that Paul wrote to them.

Paul's first missionary journey **took him to Antioch**. Antioch was where they first were called Christians.

Patmos is where John was exiled to an island.

Philippi is where the message was to the Philippians.

Thessalonica, this is the church that thought Jesus had come back and raptured out and left them behind.

Paul wrote a letter to the church at Rome, the book of Romans.

Seven Churches John was instructed to write to:

1. Ephesus – The Apostolic Church
2. Smyrna – Persecuted Church
3. Pergamos – State/Constantine Church
4. Thyatira – Papal Church
5. Sardis – Dead Church (Reformation)
6. Philadelphia – Missionary Church
7. Laodicea – Apostate Church/End Time!

Pergamos' influence remains today. Thyatira's influence remains today. Laodicea's definitely because that is the end time, apostate church. A lot of these letters have exhortations and encouragement in them that we all can learn from.

Outline:

- *The 10 Similarities of The Churches:*
 1. *One or More Details of Christ's Description (Rev 1:12-16).*

Revelation 1:12-16:

¹²And I turned to see the **voice** that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; ¹³And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a **garment** down to the foot, and **girt** about the **paps** with a golden **girdle**. ¹⁴His **head** and *his hairs were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his **eyes were** as a flame of fire; ¹⁵And his **feet** like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his **voice** as the sound of many waters. ¹⁶And he had in his right **hand** seven stars: and out of his **mouth** went a sharp two-edged sword: and his **countenance was** as the sun shineth in his strength.

One or more of these details is gonna be found in every single letter that John wrote to the seven churches. There not all gonna be in one letter. But they're scattered out in all seven. You're gonna hear a description of Christ in every one of them.

CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH!!

The seven churches are represented by the seven candlesticks. Christ is the head of the Church. **The church don't function without Christ.** The church is not the church without Christ.

The Holy Spirit will only be in the midst of the church IF Christ is allowed in its midst.

What keeps the church alive? **It's Christ walking among the candlesticks** that makes the church the church.

Outline:

- *The 10 Similarities of The Churches*
 2. *Each is addressed to the pastor.*

The pastor is the key. If that pastor is wrong, then the five-fold ministry gift will not function.

A Tale of Three Kings, by Gene Edwards:

<https://www.christianbook.com/tale-of-three-kings/gene-edwards/9780842369084/pd/69082?event=ESRCN>

God-given authority is not given lightly. When God puts authority over a man to oversee others, if that authority is abused, it is not gonna be well for the one abusing it.

Jesus is addressing the pastors, the seven stars in His hand.

If a pastor is not seasoned and he don't know how to handle authority when he's a nobody, he's not gonna handle authority when he's a somebody.

2 Samuel 15:6:

And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

2 Samuel 18:9-10:

⁹And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that *was* under him went away. ¹⁰And a certain man saw *it*, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

Absalom is a rebellious spirit. He was a type of the Anti-Christ that will steal the hearts of Israel as a nation one day.

The pastor has Godly authority and if he misuses that authority, the sheep are always hurt. Sometimes the sheep misuse their place and **they rise up in rebellion** and say things and do things that are rebellions in nature. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness as the sin of idolatry. **You are committing spiritual witchcraft doing it.** Same thing with the pastor.

The pastors are the ones that tend the sheep. The pastors are the ones that oversee the safety and the spiritual temperature of the sheep. And he keeps the wolves out.

Acts 20:28-30:

²⁸Take heed therefore unto yourselves [pastors], **and to all the flock**, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers, to feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood. ²⁹For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.