

Sermon Follow-up — August 9, 2020 — Revelation 1

Sermon Recap:

The code to the book of Revelation is in the beginning of the book: “the revelation of Jesus Christ.” There is no code or hidden message but just hearing what John is trying to tell us right from the start: Revelation reveals Jesus Christ. So what does Revelation reveal about Jesus Christ?

1. Reveals the full glory of Christ: (v.9-16)

The word glory means “weight.” When John sees Jesus, he understands that Jesus is like a son of man, or a human being. But John also realizes that Jesus is quite different than he himself is. Jesus in his glory is different than the image we have of him with his disciples.

2. Reveals that the glorified Christ is Alive: (v.17-18)

Jesus is the first and the last AND the living one! Who died and is alive ever more. Who has the keys to death and hades. The glorified Christ is alive!

3. The glorified Christ is alive in the midst of His Church: (v.12-13,20)

He is particularly powerful in the midst of the gathering of believers and the Church. Our relationship with Christ should not be private but used to build up the Church.

Revelation uses 7 churches of John’s generation to outline problems that churches still face.

Ephesus- abounded in good works but abandoned their first love

Smyrna- struggled to remain faithful in a time of persecution

Pergamum- tempted to replace the gospel with false teaching

Thyatira- tempted to exchange the pleasures of this world for the good gifts of God

Sardis- had a good reputation on the outside but were dead on the inside

Philadelphia- charged to have patience and endurance even with little power as a church

Laodicea- tempted to depend on themselves and their own wealth

Messages to the Seven Churches of Revelation

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Greeting	Rev 2:1	Rev 2:8	Rev 2:12	Rev 2:18	Rev 3:1a	Rev 3:7	Rev 3:14
“I know ...”	Rev 2:2	Rev 2:9	Rev 2:13a	Rev 2:19a	Rev 3:1b	Rev 3:8	Rev 3:15

Praise	Rev 2:3, 7a	Rev 2:9	Rev 2:13b	Rev 2:19b, 24	Rev 3:4	Rev 3:10	—
Rebuke	Rev 2:4	—	Rev 2:14–15	Rev 2:20–21	Rev 3:1c	—	Rev 3:17
Command	Rev 2:5a	Rev 2:10	Rev 2:16a	Rev 2:25	Rev 3:2–3a	Rev 3:11	Rev 3:18–19
Warning	Rev 2:5b	—	Rev 2:16b	Rev 2:22–23	Rev 3:3b	—	Rev 3:16
“The one who conquers ...”	Rev 2:7b	Rev 2:11	Rev 2:17	Rev 2:26–28	Rev 3:5	Rev 3:12	Rev 3:21

Application:

1. What would our response be if the glorified Christ were present in our midst? Like John we could fall down as if dead due to our unworthiness. In verse 17, Jesus tells us to fear not.
2. What is the significance of Jesus having the keys to death?
3. We acknowledge that a personal relationship with Jesus is important, but we are also called to a relationship to the glorified Christ in the midst of the church. How might you commit this week to the church in a deeper, more meaningful way (connect to, give to and/or pray for)?
4. Which temptations of the 7 churches do you most fall into?
5. Who do you know that needs to hear that Jesus is alive even in the midst of his/her current circumstances? Would you consider reaching out to this person?