

*“Victory Of Christ”
To The Seven Churches
Revelation 2-3
Part 2 ~ Jesus’ Commission & Character*

Introduction:

1. Let’s Open Up Our Bibles:
 - To Revelation 2-3:
 - As I Pass Out Today’s Lesson Guide!
2. Last Week - We Started Looking:
 - At The First Main Series:
 - In The Book Of Revelation:
 - The Seven Letters To The Seven Churches:
 - Addressed Already In Chapter 1!
 - And - This First Series:
 - Is Also The Main Substance:
 - Of The First Vision:
 - Given By The Lord:
 - To John!
3. And - We Ended Our Last Lesson:
 - Looking At The Structure:
 - Of The Letters - And How:
 - They Can Each Be Broken Down:
 - **Into Seven Parts!**
 - The First Part Is:
 - Jesus’ Commission:
 - To John - To Write The Letters!
 - The Second Part Describes:
 - Jesus’ Character:
 - Who - Along With The Holy Spirit:
 - Is The Author Of Each Letter!
 - The Third Part Details:
 - Jesus’ Comprehension:
 - About Each Angel & Church:
 - That Is Addressed!
 - And - This Comprehension:
 - Is Then Expanded Into The Issuance Of:
 - Both Commendations & Challenges:
 - To Just About Every Church!
 - The Fourth Part Involves:
 - Jesus’ Commands:
 - To The Churches - As To How:
 - They Need To Respond To:
 - The Challenges They Face!
 - The Fifth Part Is:
 - Jesus’ Consequences:
 - That Will Come Upon Each Church:
 - Based On Their Responses To:
 - The Challenges & Commands:
 - Given To Them By Jesus!
 - Some Consequences:
 - Are Positive - While Others:
 - Are Negative!
 - The Sixth Part Is:
 - Jesus’ Comfort:
 - To Those Who Do Respond:
 - And “Overcome” The Challenges:
 - They Face! And:
 - The Seventh Part Is:
 - Jesus’ Call:

- To Every Church & To Every Believer:
 - To Pay Attention To:
 - The Messages Of Each Letter!
- 4. This Morning:
 - We Are Going To Look At:
 - The First 2 Parts:
 - To Each Letter - Because Of:
 - The Similarities Between Them!
 - And Then - Next Week:
 - We Will Look At:
 - Some Of The Other Parts:
 - Of Each Letter - Because They Too:
 - Have Similarities Between Them!
 - And Then - We Will Look At:
 - The Individual Messages:
 - To Each Angel & Each Church:
 - Addressed In Chapters 2-3!
 - 5. But - To Begin:
 - Let's Read Together:
 - These Seven Letters!
 - Seven Volunteers - To Read:
 - One Letter At A Time!
 - 1 - Ephesus
 - 2 - Smyrna
 - 3 - Pergamus
 - 4 - Thyatira
 - 5 - Sardis
 - 6 - Philadelphia
 - 7 - Laodicea
 - 6. So - The First Thing:
 - That Each Letter Has In Common:
 - Is Found In:
 - 1. **Jesus' Commission:**
 - To John - To Write These Letters!
 - And - The Commission:
 - By Jesus To John:
 - Is The Same Simple Command:
 - To "Write" Each Letter!
 - And - To "Write" Down:
 - These Direct Messages:
 - From The Risen & Glorified Jesus Himself! (See Chapter 1)
 - And - Though These Messages:
 - Are First Directed To:
 - "The Angel" Of Each Church:
 - As We Have Seen!
 - They Are Also To Be Applied:
 - By The Church As A Whole!
 - Now - The Arrangement Of This Commission:
 - In Most English Bibles Today:
 - Is Parallel In Every Way - And:
 - The Formula Is The Same:
 - In Most Of The Underlying Greek Texts! (MT & CT)
 - **"Unto The Angel Of The Church In [City] Write!"**
 - * (See The Additional Notes For Perspective On The RT.)
 - So - At The Beginning Of Each Letter:
 - Each Church Is Addressed As Being:
 - "In" Their Respective Cities
 - So - The Focus Is On:
 - The Distinct Location & Community:

- Of Each Church!
- This Shows Us That:
 - The Visible Church Is Made Up Of:
 - **Individual, Local Congregations:**
 - That Are “In” The Various Places God Has Placed Them!
 - And - No Matter Where:
 - God’s Church Is - Even If It Is In:
 - The Most Unlikely Of Places!
 - He Is Still With Each Church - And:
 - He Still Has A Message For Each Church!
 - Including Our Own!
- And - That’s The First Part:
 - Of Each Letter:
 - Jesus’ Commission:
 - To John - To “Write!”
 - Then - The Second Part:
 - Of Each Letter:
 - Goes On To Describe:

2. **Jesus Character:**

- As The Author Of Each Letter!
 - But - Before Describing Himself:
 - Jesus Uses Two Words:
 - To Introduce Himself!
 - ταδε λεγει
 - This Is Translated As:
 - “These Things Saith He!”
 - Or - “These Things He Is Saying!”
 - It Has Been Noted That:
 - This Phrase Has Much In Common With:
 - The Old Testament Formula:
 - **“Thus Saith The Lord!”**
 - And - Even Though “Lord” Is Not Provided In The Text:
 - The “Lord” Describes Himself:
 - Immediately After These Two Words!
 - Now - When Jesus Describes Himself:
 - To The Seven Churches:
 - He Does So In Three Main Ways!
 - Jesus Describes Himself:
 - In Terms Of:
 - **His Vision:**
 - That John Just Saw In Chapter 1!
 - Jesus Also Describes Himself:
 - In Terms Of:
 - His **Voice:**
 - John Heard As Well!
 - But - Jesus Also Describes Himself:
 - In Terms Of:
 - His Own **Virtue:**
 - That Is Found Elsewhere In Revelation Or Scripture!
 - And - We Will Find In Each Letter:
 - Descriptions From:
 - One Or Two Of These Categories!
 - We Will Also See:
 - That Each Description Is Symbolic - And:
 - Is Meant To Address A Particular Need:
 - In Each Church! So:
 - **1 - To The Church In Ephesus:**
 - 2:1 - “These things saith he (ταδε λεγει) that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks!”

- These Two Descriptions Point Back To:
 - The Vision Of Jesus:
 - In Chapter 1!
- The First Description Is:
 - From 1:16 - Where Jesus Is:
 - Holding “The Seven Stars In His Right Hand!” - And:
 - From 1:20 - We Know That The Seven Stars Are The Seven Angels Of The Seven Churches!
 - The Purpose Of This Description:
 - Is To Remind The Church Of:
 - His **Power** Over Them - And:
 - His Possession Of Them:
 - And Their Leaders!
 - The Difference Between 2:1 & 1:16:
 - Is That - Here - Jesus Is “Holding” (κρατέω) (Grasp) The Stars His Right Hand - Whereas In 1:16:
 - He Is Just “Having” Them In His Right Hand!”
 - So - They Are Even More Securely Possessed By Jesus:
 - Because - They Belong Exclusively To Him!
- The Second Description Is:
 - From 1:12-13 - Where Jesus Is:
 - “In The Midst Of The Seven Golden Candlesticks!” - And:
 - From 1:20 Again - We Know That The Golden Candlesticks Are The Seven Churches!
 - And Are Of Great Value To The Lord! (Gold!)
 - The Purpose Of This Description:
 - Is To Remind the Church Of:
 - His **Presence** With Them!
 - The Main Difference Between 2:1 & 1:12-13:
 - Is That There - Jesus Is “In The Midst” Of The Candlesticks!
 - But Here - Jesus Is “Walking” In Their Midst! Personally & Actively!
- These Would Have Been Some Important Truths:
 - For A Church That Had:
 - Left Her First Love!
- **2 - To The Church In Smyrna:**
 - 2:8 - “These things saith (ταδε λεγει) the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive!”
 - This Two-Part Description Points Back To:
 - The Voice Of Jesus:
 - In Chapter 1!
 - In 1:17 (End) - Jesus Says The Same Thing:
 - That He Does Here:
 - “I Am the first And The Last!”
 - And - He Said This:
 - To Relieve John When He:
 - “Fell At His Feet As Dead!”
 - And - This Would Have Been An Important Truth:
 - For The Suffering Church In Smyrna As Well!
 - In 1:18 - Jesus Tells John:
 - “I Am He That Liveth, And Was Dead; And, Behold, I Am Alive For Evermore!”
 - Here - Jesus Focuses On His Transition:
 - From Death To Life!
 - And That - Though He Was Dead:
 - He Was & Is Alive!
 - And - One Day - They Too Could Say This!
 - And This Not Only Brings **Hope:**
 - But Also - Great Significance:
 - To Their Suffering!
 - **3 - To The Church In Pergamos:**
 - 2:12 - “These things saith he (ταδε λεγει) which hath the sharp sword with two edges!”
 - This Description Points Again Back To:

- The Vision Of Jesus!
- Where - In 1:16 - John Tells Us That:
 - “Out Of His Mouth Went Out A Sharp Two-Edged Sword!”
 - The Only Difference Between The Vision & The Letter Is That:
 - Here - We Are Not Told That The Sword Is Coming Out Of His Mouth!
- But - That’s No Matter - Because - It Still Describes:
 - The Powerful Words Of Jesus:
 - To **Judge** His Church:
 - That Has Compromised With The City / World In Which She Was Placed:
 - To Be A Light!
- So - What We See So Far:
 - In These Descriptions Of Jesus To The Churches:
 - Is That He Goes Back & Forth:
 - Between What John Saw & Heard About Him!
 - So - There’s No Particular Order!
 - Instead - He Picks & Chooses:
 - What Would Apply Best:
 - To The Church At Hand!
- **4 - So - To The Church In Thyatira:**
 - 2:18 - “These things saith (ταδε λεγει) the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet [are] like fine brass!”
 - There Are Three Descriptions Of Jesus:
 - And Only Two Of Them - Eyes & Feet:
 - Point Back To John’s Vision!
 - In 1:14b-15a - John Describes Jesus:
 - As He Saw Him In His Vision:
 - “And His Eyes Were As A Flame Of Fire; And His Feet Like Unto Fine Brass, As If They Burned In A Furnace!”
 - A Reminder To This Tolerant Church Of His Great **Purity!**
 - But - Here - In 2:18 - We Also Have:
 - The Only Place In Revelation Where Jesus:
 - Calls Himself - “The **Son Of God!**”
 - In The Vision - John Saw Jesus As “One Like Unto The Son Of Man!” (1:13)
 - But - Here - Jesus Identifies Himself:
 - His Own Person - As:
 - The Son Of God!
 - Who They Needed To Hear & Heed!
 - **5 - To The Church In Sardis:**
 - 3:1 - “These things saith he (ταδε λεγει) that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars!”
 - Here - Jesus Describes Himself:
 - In Terms Of Both:
 - The Vision & The Virtue:
 - That We Find In Chap 1!
 - As To Jesus’ Virtue:
 - He Is The One That:
 - “Hath The Seven **Spirits** Of God!”
 - This Points Back To:
 - 1:4 - Where We Learned About:
 - “The Seven Spirits Which Are Before His Throne!”
 - So - There Is An Intimate Relationship:
 - Between Jesus & The Ever-Present, Seven-Fold Spirit Of God! So That:
 - Nothing Can Be Hidden From Him!
 - And - As To John’s Vision:
 - Once Again - Jesus Reminds This “Dead” Church:
 - That He Also Has “The Seven **Stars!**”
 - A Further Display Of His Power:
 - Over Them!
 - **6 - To The Church In Philadelphia:**
 - 3:7 - “These things saith he (ταδε λεγει) that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that

- openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth!”
 - To This Church - Jesus Does Not Describe Himself:
 - In Terms Of The Vision At All!
 - Instead - He Reminds This Faithful Church Of His Own:
 - Faithful Virtues! 3!
 - The Virtue Of His ***Holiness!***
 - He Is “The Holy One!”
 - First Time In Revelation ἅγιος Is Used!
 - Used Elsewhere For Saints / Angels / Cities - Here - Jesus!
 - Now - Even Though Jesus Is Not Described:
 - As “Holy” In John’s Vision:
 - It Is Certainly There In Principle!
 - His Glory & Brilliance!
 - The Virtue Of His ***Faithfulness!***
 - He Is Also - “The True One!”
 - Also - First Time In Revelation ἀληθινός Is Used! But Not The Last!
 - It Will Be Joined With Other Virtues To Describe Jesus!
 - 3:14 - He Is “Faithful And True!”
 - 6:10 - The Lord Is - “Holy And True!”
 - 15:13 - His Ways Are - “Just And True!”
 - And - Though Jesus Is Not Described As True:
 - In John’s Vision - Yet - His Word:
 - Is Prominent In Chapter 1!
 - 1:2 - He The “Word Of God!” - And As His Word - He Is Always True!
 - The Virtue Of His ***Sovereignty:***
 - Is Described By Jesus’ Having:
 - “The Key Of David!”
 - This Is A Different “Key” Than Is Described:
 - In 1:18 - “The Keys Of Hell & Death!”
 - But - This Key:
 - Is Described In The Old Testament:
 - Isaiah 22:22!
 - Where - A Promise Is Made To:
 - A Fairly Obscure Man - Named - “Eliakim The Son Of Hilkiah!”
 - Who Faithfully Served Under The Good King Hezekiah - As His “Head Of The Household!”
 - **And - Part Of The Promise Was This:**
 - “And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open!”
 - So - Eliakim Was To Be Raised Up To:
 - The Position Of Shebna:
 - Who Was A Proud & Unfaithful Servant To The King!
 - And - He Would Be Given:
 - The Palace Key - Which Was A Position Of Great:
 - ***Privilege*** & Power!
 - And - In This Way:
 - He Became A Type / Picture:
 - Of Jesus!
 - So Here - Jesus Says That:
 - He Is Now The True & Final Recipient:
 - Of This Symbolic Key!
 - Because He Possesses The Exclusive, Sovereign Access & Control Over Everything!
 - And - These Truths About Jesus:
 - The Faithful Church In Philadelphia:
 - Would Have Especially Needed:
 - For The “Open Door” They Were Given From The Lord!
 - **7 - To The Church In Laodicea:**
 - 3:14 - “These things saith (ταδε λεγει) the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the

creation of God!"

- To This Church Also - Jesus Does Not Describe Himself At All In Terms Of:
 - The Vision John Saw!
 - Instead - He Highlights Three More Of His Virtues:
 - To This Luke-Warm Church!
 - Perhaps These Virtues & Truths:
 - Would Heat Them Up:
 - For Him!
- He Reminds Them Of:
 - The Virtue Of His ***Word!***
 - He Call Himself The "Amen!"
 - Which Means - "So Be It!"
 - So - As The "Amen" - Jesus Is The One:
 - Who Makes Things So!
 - And This Means:
 - His Word Is Always Final!
- Then - He Reminds Them Of:
 - The Virtue Of His ***Witness!***
 - He Is The "Faithful And True Witness!"
 - In 1:5 - Jesus Was Called:
 - "The Faithful Witness!"
 - And - In 19:11 - He Is Personally Called:
 - "Faithful And True!"
 - And Since - The Words Of Jesus:
 - Are Always True:
 - His Witness Is Always Faithful!
- Then - He Reminds Them Of:
 - The Virtue Of His ***Work!***
 - He Is "The Beginning Of The Creation Of God!"
 - This Does Not Mean That:
 - Jesus Is Part Of God's Creation!
 - But Rather - He Is Over God's Creation - And Is Even:
 - The Originator Of God's Creation! (αρχή)
 - We Saw This Before:
 - In 1:8 - "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty!"
 - Also Found In:
 - John 1:1-2 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. / The same was in the beginning with God!"
 - 1 John 1:1 - "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life . . . We declare unto you!"
 - So - This Is The Second Part:
 - Of Each Letter - Jesus Describes His Own Character:
 - To The Churches - In Terms Of:
 - His Vision & Voice & Virtue:
 - As The Son Of God!

Conclusion:

1. Next Week:
 - Look At The 3rd & Last 2 Parts:
 - Of Each Letter - Which Also:
 - Have Some Things In Common:
 - With Each Other!

*** Additional Notes For Point #1:**

- However - In The Received Greek Text:
 - Which Is The Basis Of The King James & New King James Versions:
 - There Are Some Interesting Differences:
 - That Are Not Completely Reflected In Translation!

- And - Those Differences:
 - Can Even Bring More Out About The Nature:
 - Of The Church!
- In 2:1 - Ephesus Is Also Found:
 - As An Adjective - And So:
 - Could Also Be Translated:
 - “Unto The Angel Of The Ephesian Church!”
 - And - If This Is The Way:
 - It Was Originally Given To John:
 - It Could Even Give Us A Hint About:
 - The Character Of The Church!
 - If Jesus Used The Name Of:
 - The City - As An Adjective:
 - To Modify The Church:
 - He Could Be Saying To Them Right At The Beginning:
 - That They Had A Bit Too Much Of Their City In Their Church!
 - And - Perhaps - That Is One Reason Why:
 - They “Left Their First Love!”
- Then - In 2:8 & 3:14 - The Cities Of Smyrna & Laodicea:
 - Are Also Found:
 - As Plural Nouns In The Genitive Case:
 - And So - Could Be Translated:
 - “And Unto The Church Of Smyrnians & Laodiceans!”
 - And - This Would Give Us A Hint About:
 - The Composition Of The Church!
 - And How - Especially In Those Two Churches - They Were Primarily Made Up Of The People From Their Own City!
 - So - They Were Predominantly Local Churches & Congregations!
 - Then - In The Rest - In 2:12 & 2:18 & 3:1 & 3:14:
 - The Churches Are All Found:
 - “In” The Cities Of Pergamus & Thyatira & Sardis & Philadelphia!
 - So - The Focus Is On:
 - The Distinct Community Of The Churches:
 - And Location Of Their Fellowship!
 - So - If The Seven Churches:
 - Are Addressed In The Same Way - Or:
 - Even In A Different Way:
 - There Are Some Important Things:
 - That Can Be Gleaned:
 - About The Nature Of A Church!
 - The Visible Church Is To Be Made Up Of:
 - Individual, Local Congregations:
 - That Are “In” The Various Places:
 - God Has Placed Them!
 - However - It Could Pose A Problem:
 - If There Is More:
 - City In The Church Than Church In City!
 - But - No Matter Where:
 - God’s Church Is:
 - He Is Still With Each One - And:
 - He Still Has A Message For Each One!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com