**Scripture: Revelation 2:1-3:22** 

Sermon: *Hear What The Spirit Says!* 23 September 2012

"To the angel of The Reformed Presbyterian Church in Oswego, write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks in the midst of the seven candlesticks, says this:

I know that you are persevering and growing in doing good well. I know that you love truth & righteousness and hate falsehood & sin. I know that you are poor, that you have little strength and that you have a reputation of being a dead church. But I know the truth is that you are rich in My inheritance, that you are strong in My strength and that you are a living church by faith in Me and My word.

But I do have a few things against you: your love for Me has grown cold and, consequently, your love for each other has turned into bitterness. You've been led astray by the false prophets of the world into subtle idolatry and socially acceptable immorality. That is, other things are more important to you than My worship. And other things are more important to you than keeping my commandments.

Remember your former zeal. Repent from your idolatrous distractions and your immoral indulgences. Renew your love for Me and My worship. Sweeten your attitude toward each other and your words about one another. Stop being afraid of future difficulties. Persevere in the good things you still have; strengthen the things that are growing weaker. Ask Me for whatever you truly need and rightly desire.

If you do not repent and persevere, I will fight against you with the sword of My mouth and I will come and remove your lampstand out of its place.

He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes I will cause to enjoy all My benefits: My righteousness, My life and My saving dominion over the nations.

I. <u>IDENTIFICATION: THE KING OF KINGS</u> (Rev1:12f; 2:1ff /17:14; 19:16; Acts2:33; Eph1:18f; Phil.2:8f)

# II. <u>COMMENDATION: DOCTRINE & SERVICE</u> (see Rom.12:9)

- **A. PERSEVERENCE IN WORD** (Rev.2:2,3;13; 3:8b; see 2Tim.3:14f)
- **B. GROWTH IN WORK** (Rev.2:19; see 1Th.4:1f,10f)
- **C. RICH, STRONG, ALIVE** (Rev.2:9; 3:8; (3:1); see Rom.8:17,32; 1Tm.6:8; Eph.2:10; 6:10; Rom.6:4; Mt.12:33)

# III. ADMONITION: HEART & LIFE

- **A. A FEW THINGS AGAINST** (Rev.2:14; see 4,20; (3:1f,14f))
- **B. LOVE: LET GO; TURNED OFF** (Rev.2:4; 3:15; Mt.24:12; Col.3:19; see Mt22:37f; 1Jn4:20f; Gal5:15f; Eph4:31f)
- **C. MISLED: OTHER GODS; OTHER GOODS** (Rev.2:14,15; 20,21; Gen.3:1f; Dt.11:16; Rom.1:18f; see Mk.4:19(Mt.6:25f); JJn.2:15f; Jms.3:14-16)

#### IV. EXHORTATION: REMEMBER & REPENT

- **A. REMEMBER** (Rev.2:5; 3:3; Jer.2:2; see Ps.78:7; 1Cor.11:24f; Heb.10:32)
- **B. REPENT** (Rev.2:5,16,21f; 3:3,19; see Hos.2:7; 1Th.1:9; see Mt.22:37f; 1Jn4:20f; Gal.5:22f; Eph4:31f; Jms3:13,17f)
- **C. STOP BEING AFRAID** (Rev.2:10; see Acts 20:23; Mt.28:20)
- **D. PERSEVERE IN THE GOOD** (Rev.2:25; 3:11; see Mt.10:22; 24:13; Heb.10:36; 12:1; 2Tm.4:7)
- E. STRENGTHEN THE WEAK (Rev.3:2; see Heb.12:2; 1Th.5:14f)
- F. LOOK TO CHRIST IN ALL THINGS (Rev.3:18; see Is.55:1(Rev.21:6); Jn.14:13,etc.; Lk.11:9f)

### V. IMPRECATION: FIGHT & REMOVE

- **A. THE LORD OUR ADVERSARY** (Rev.2:12,16; 19:15,21; Num.22:22f; 1Sam.28:16; 1Kngs.11:14f,23f; see Rom.13:4; Lev.26:7f/25f; Heb.4:12; Acts 2:37; see Dt.32:39; Hos.6:1)
- **B. REMOVE YOUR LAMPSTAND** (Rev.2:5; 1:20; see Jer.7:12f; 26:6f)

# VI. BENEDICTION: PRESENCE & FELLOWSHIP

- **A. KNOCK, KNOCK** (Rev.3:20; 2:7a, etc.; 21:7; see Mt.11:15; 13:9f; see Ps119:18; Is35:5; Mt11:5; Lk11:13; Eph1:18f)
- B. OVERCOME: REMEMBER, REPENT, RETURN (Rev.2:7b, etc.; 21:7; see IV. above)
- **C. A PLACE AT HIS TABLE** (Rev.3:20; see 2:7,17,26f; 3:5,12; see 2Sam.9:11; 1Th.4:17b; see Lk.22:14f,30)

#### **VII. HEAR & HEED** (Rev.1:3; see 2:7,etc.)