

LETTERS FROM JESUS

REVELATION 1-3



Sermon Overview

In the book of Revelation, Jesus illustrates the complete challenges, sins, failures, and successes represented in all churches across the world throughout all of time. Jesus in turn, calls His true church to respond by maintaining its sole identity in Christ and looking to Him and Him alone.

PART ONE

Tolerance of sin in the church of Jesus Christ stems from waning love for Jesus and increasing love for the world.

In the book of Revelation, Jesus illustrates the complete challenges, sins, failures, and successes represented in all churches across the world throughout all of time.

¹ The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

² who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

⁴ John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits

⁵ before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

REVELATION 1:1-5

REVELATION

The name for the book of Revelation comes from the Greek word **apokalypsis**.

ἀποκάλυψις - apokalypsis n.

disclosure:—appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation.

The book of Revelation is an uncovering and revealing of the resurrected Christ, beginning with what He thinks of His church, as represented by churches in seven of the major cities of that time.

SATAN'S SCHEMES

At the time these letters were written, Christians were being systematically persecuted by the emperor Domitian. They were commanded to worship Caesar, or risk losing everything. In addition to this outside persecution, there were numerous false teachers and immoral people entering into the church and corrupting believers.

These persecutions and false believers were a part of Satan's continuous attempt to destroy the true church of Jesus Christ. As the time of Christ's return grows closer, the greater the attack on the church becomes.

IN RESPONSE

In response to Satan's attack on the church, Jesus calls for three responses from His true church:

1.) Look to Jesus as the Faithful Witness.

The only way for believers to not compromise is to keep their eyes on the glorified, soon coming Jesus.

Jesus is the faithful witness, even though it took Him to the cross.

2.) Look to Jesus as the Firstborn of the Dead.

Jesus is the first to be raised from the dead, never to die again. Death has no further demands over Him, which should strengthen every Christian against temptation, suffering, and persecution.

3.) Look to Jesus as the Ruler of the Kings of the Earth.

Earthly rulers and dictators may want to crush the church, but Jesus is the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. He is the director of destiny of people and nations.

While we may not be able to see these things as John the Revelator did, soon all will see the glorified splendor of Jesus Christ in all of His majesty, dominion, authority, and power.