

"Christ's Letter to Our Church"
(Revelation 2-3)

This morning we will recap our study of Christ's letters to the seven churches and consider what letter He might write to our church.

I. Christ's Character

- **He is Present (2:1)**
"...holdeth the 7 stars in his right hand...in the midst of the 7 candlesticks"
- **He is Risen (2:8)**
"...the first and the last, which was dead and is alive"
- **He is Guarding (2:12)**
"...hath the sharp sword with two edges"
- **He is Judging (2:18)**
"the Son of God...eyes like unto a flame of fire...feet are like fine brass"
- **He is Powerful (3:1)**
"He that hath the 7 Spirits of God, and the 7 stars"
- **He is Authoritative (3:7)**
"He that is holy...true...hath the key of David...openeth and no man shutteth"
- **He is Truthful (3:14)**
"the Amen,...faithful and true witness...beginning of the creation of God"

II. Christ's Commendation (Praise)

- **For Sound Doctrine/Confrontation of Error (2:2)**
"I know thy works...thou hast tried them that say they are apostles and are not"
- **For Suffering for Him (2:9)**
"I know thy works...tribulation...poverty (but thou art rich)...blasphemy of them which say they are Jews"
- **For Courage in Opposition (2:13)**
"I know thy works...hast not denied my faith, even..when Antipas...was slain among you..."
- **For Abounding in Good Works (2:19)**
"I know thy works and charity...and the last to be more than the first"
- **For Dependence on Him (3:8)**
"I know thy works...for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word"

III. Christ's Concern (Reprimand)

- **Loss of Fervent Love for Him (2:4)**
"...I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love"
- **Permitting Worldly Influences (2:14-15)**
"...thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam...the doctrine of the Nicolaitans"
- **Tolerating Sin in the Church (2:20-21)**
thou sufferest that woman Jezebel...to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication"
- **Resting on Reputation (3:1)**
"I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead"
- **Self-Righteous Attitude (3:16-17)**
"thou art lukewarm...sayest I am rich...have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched...miserable...poor...blind...naked"

IV. Christ's Counsel for the Churches

- **Remember, Repent and Return (2:5)**
"Remember...repent, and do the first works, or else I will...remove thy candlestick"
- **Be Faithful Unto Death (2:10)**
"Fear none...thou shalt suffer...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life"
- **Confront Sin (2:16)**
"Repent or else I will come...quickly and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth"
- **Protect the Flock From False Teaching (2:25)**
"But that which ye have, hold fast til I come"
- **Strengthen the Flock (3:2-3)**
"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die...repent"
- **Finish Strong (3:11)**
"...I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown"
- **Pursue True Riches (3:18)**
"...buy of me gold tried in fire...white raiment...anoint thine eyes"

V. Christ's Coming

- **Joyous Fellowship With Jesus (2:7)**
"...will I give to eat of the tree of life...in the midst of the paradise of God"
 - **Eternal Protection By Jesus (2:11)**
"...shall not be hurt by the second death"
 - **Intimate Fellowship With Jesus (2:17)**
"...will I give to eat...hidden manna,...a white stone,...which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it"
 - **Kingdom Leadership From Jesus (2:26-27)**
"...will I give power over the nations...And he shall rule them with a rod of iron"
 - **Special Recognition By Jesus (3:5)**
"...I will confess his name before my Father and before His angels"
 - **Permanent Security and Identity In Jesus (3:12)**
"will I make a pillar in the temple of my God...write upon him the name of my God...and my new name"
 - **Ruling With Jesus (3:21)**
"will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I overcame and am set down with my Father"
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Small Group Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: Revelation 2-3 consists of 7 actual letters from Jesus to His churches. Share about a letter or note you received in the mail that was special to you.

1. Share something from Sunday's study that spoke to you personally – a challenge? an encouragement? a good reminder? a question that needs to be clarified?
2. Review the 7 descriptions of Christ's Character on the other side. Pick two of the 7 that are most meaningful to you? Why? Take a moment to give Him praise for ALL that He is!
3. Review the 5 commendations of Christ in part two. At which one of these are you doing the best? Which one needs improvement the most? How about our church (same questions)?
4. Which of the 7 blessings in part five (Christ's Coming) are you MOST excited about? Why?