

Mt. Lebanon Church.

Gods Grace

Grace and the Revelation of Christ as seen through the Heart of John - Part 4

2020

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you have run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the bible study.

John 1: 1 – 18.

The book of Revelation contains mysteries that not even a few have fully understood. The book of Revelation, sometimes called the Apocalypse, is one of the most important books in the bible. It reveals the future of humanity, and the future of the earth, and it also contains symbols and secrets to challenge our Christian life. God told John to write down what he saw, and pronounce a blessing on those who would study what John wrote.

Revelation 1: 3,....Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near....

Yes, Almighty God promises that He will bless you, if you follow His admonition to read and hear the word, all the word, and take to heart what is written in this very important book.

Revelation is about Christ himself, and its message is, the gospel of God's grace.

John sent the record of his vision to seven churches in Asia Minor. Those churches still have meaning for us today.

Revelation 1: 11,....saying I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, and what thou seest, write in a book, and send it to the seven churches, which are in Asia....

They were Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. The spiritual condition of these seven churches have been reflected in God's Church, which is the body of Christ, and is still reflected in us today.

The Revelator, Jesus Christ, tells us to learn lessons from each church. Seven times, once for each church, John tells us, He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The descriptions of these churches describe, not only the body of Christ now, but our spiritual condition as well.

Christ Jesus describes the churches in this way,

Ephesus is labeled, The Loveless Church.

Revelation 2: 1 - 7,....Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love....Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works....

Although praised for their hard work and weeding out false prophets by opposing their worldly teachings, their efforts of Gods goodness begin slipping into religions, rather than staying strong in their love for God and one another. The solution, made possible by Gods grace, is to repent.

Have we lost our first love as a Christians.

Smyrna is labeled, The Persecuted Church.

Revelation 2: 8 - 11,....I know your works, tribulation, and poverty, but you are rich.... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life....

God warns us daily of persecution in our lives that will come through tests, trials and tribulations, these experiences will continue to get worse before they get better. By Gods grace, as we remain faithful, we will receive the crown of life.

Have we faithfully withstood suffering and persecution.

Pergamos is labeled, *The Compromising Church.*

Revelation 2: 12 - 17,....Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth....

Pergamos tolerated doctrines connected by false teachings and deception that lead to sexual immorality. Allowing teachings in the church by those that were believers in themselves and not in God. To overcome, repent and eat of the hidden manna, Gods grace through Gods word.

Have we been compromised with deception and false doctrines.

Thyatira is labeled, *The Corrupt Church.*

Revelation 2: 18 – 29....I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.... Indeed, I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds....

And I will give to each one of you according to your deeds....

We may choose to either repent of sin or remain in sin, by accepting Gods grace, by overcoming, by keeping his works, his promise to us is to give unto us the morning star. Christ himself, given to us, as Christians upon this earth, as the living word, repenting of sin, accepting Christ, growing spiritually in him, unlocks this great asset that we have, which is Christ himself, and then in the end it will be Christ in person.

Have we fallen victim to corruption.

Sardis is labeled, The Dead Church.

Revelation 3: 1-6,.... I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God....

Sometimes our reputation does not match our spiritual standing with God. We cannot live forever on the pridefulness of a few spiritual accomplishments, we must continue to diligently work for the good of the kingdom of God. Through Gods grace, he who overcomes, shall be clothed in white garments.

We must remember how that we heard and received and hold fast and repent.

Philadelphia is labeled, The Faithful Church.

Revelation 3: 7 – 13,.... Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown....

Holding fast to God always means that there will be an open door of opportunity in our life to serve him. Through his grace, we have the promise of his return and our eternal life with him.

Are we holding fast to the truth of God.

Laodicea is labeled, The Lukewarm Church.

Revelation 3: 14 – 22,....I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth....

Sadly, the church has lost its spiritual compassion. We have become just familiar enough with Christ and his word, to brush it off and reject it. Due to our own arrogance, we believe, that we can do all things on our own without God. Thankfully, Gods grace is still in place, and he still stands at the door and knocks.

Has our faith become lukewarm.

Christ Jesus wants us to listen to all seven of these messages. They reveal the changes we need to make in our lives. Seven times, He tells us, He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Christ's seven messages also reveal the spiritual characteristics and attitudes of the body of Christ, from the time of Christ to the end of this age. We may live in a Laodicean era today, but individually we can have any and all of the church age characteristic approaches in our lives as Christians. We must learn to be loving, and to give of ourselves, to help God's warning message reach a world, that will soon find itself in a time of unprecedented crisis before Christ's return.

The knowledge of the truth of Gods grace is necessary for working out the salvation of our very souls.

Philippians 2: 2,....if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like minded, having the same love, being of one accord and one mind....

If we miss the truth of Gods grace, all the knowledge in the world about salvation will not matter, we must dwell upon the grace of God.

Many believers do not grasp the true meaning of Gods grace.

Ephesians 2: 8 – 9,....it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any one should boast....

The revelation of Gods grace comes through his spirit and his word.

Revelation 1: 4 – 6,....grace be unto you, and peace from him which is....and from Jesus Christ....him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood....and hath made us kings and priests unto God....

As John records his vision of heaven, he sees the very throne room of God Almighty, with a rainbow around the Father's seat of authority. How awesome and inspiring it is that our Father would describe to us His heavenly throne, which should be in our thoughts when we pray. Christians can pray directly to God in heaven, through their Savior and High Priest, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4: 16,....Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need....

We must thank God that we can come to him in prayer and meditate on the majesty and the glory of him and His throne.

As Christians, we learn, that Gods heart toward us is full of grace, and his desire for us, is eternal peace. We are not a servant working to pay off a debt, but, one that was saved by grace through faith, we are now a servant that is a part of the body of Christ, who will become a kingly priest, in the kingdom of God.

Next, we get a look at the six seals, which brings up the ones that accepted salvation during the great tribulation period.

Revelation 6: 9 – 11,....I saw under the alter, the souls of them that were slain for the word of God....how long, O Lord, doest thou not judge and avenge our blood....until their fellow servants....their brethren, that should be killed as they were....for the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand....

While the martyrs cried out to be avenged, the unbelievers on the earth, cried out, hide us. This is due to the fact, that all of nature, will be used to pour out Gods judgement on the sinfulness of the world.

Revelation 7: 9 – 17,....a great multitude which no one could number....standing before the throne and before the lamb....

These souls, who have been slain, due to their testimony, and obedience to Christ, and his word, remain in this state, until all the saints (because they gave their life for Christ) until all that are to be slain, have completed their destiny.

Revelation 12: 10 – 12,....I heard a load voice saying....now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ....they overcame by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto death....

The only way that man is able to overcome the sinful worldly system, is by adhering to the word of God, and sharing the gospel, which will result in, the physical death of the believer. These deaths are a picture of Gods grace. This grace comes from the fact, that God comforts them, after death, due to the saving grace of Christ.

John 1: 17,....but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ....

Revelation 7: 1 – 8,....and I heard the number of those that were sealed. One hundred and forty four thousand....

Revelation 14: 1 – 5,....and with him one hundred and forty four thousand, having his Father's name written on their forehead.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, shed His blood for the sins of every human being. Those who have truly repented of their sins, and who have demonstrated their faith through the baptism God's word commands, have been forgiven of their sins. They have been redeemed. Now we have come to the place in our life, where we realize the need for forgiveness. We realize the need to turn our life around and make a dramatic change, and if we are really serious about making such a change, we invite Jesus Christ into our lives, to be our Savior.

Shocking times are ahead for the whole world. We need to be prepared to warn mankind of the devastation that will be over all the earth. Yes, there have always been wars, famines, and disease. Not only will major wars cause devastation, but worldly wickedness will prevail unless man repents of their immorality and lawlessness. The time will come when all of the past wars, plagues, pandemics, famines and droughts will seem minor compared to the awful terrors that will descend upon all nations.

But there is good news. Just beyond the Day of the Lord is the glorious Kingdom of God which Jesus Christ will establish on this earth. Yes, Jesus Christ will return with great power and love, to usher in a thousand years of His millennial rule over planet earth.

Revelation 19: 11 – 16,....I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse....he himself will rule with a rod of iron....

As we have seen, God promises a blessing to those who study His word and strive to live by it. You do not want to miss out on God's blessing, knowing that God will bless us as we strive to understand and practice His way of life.

Revelation 20: 1 – 15,....then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid ahold of....Satan....and bound him....

The book of Revelation reveals, that we can look forward to the coming Kingdom of God. As we watch and wait, we should pray daily, that his kingdom might come. Soon after the thousand years of Christ's Millennial rule on earth are completed, the New Jerusalem will come to a renewed heaven and earth.

Isaiah 65: 17,....For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered, nor come to mind....

Revelation 21: 1 – 8,....I saw a new heaven and a new earth....

God will once and for all, have put away Satan the devil, and the universe will enjoy his glorious peace for all eternity. Dangerous times are ahead, but the book of Revelation shows us the hope that awaits. This will be the time, when God's faithful people will inherit the earth, and ultimately the whole universe. Thank God for the glory He will bestow upon us and all His creation.

Revelation 21: 9 – 27,....he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the grate city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God....

Revelation 22: 1 – 21,....These words are faithful and true....behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book....

Let us pray

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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