

# He Who Has an Ear, Let Him Hear!

Revelation 1:4-11

Chris Chrones, Elder – April 28, 2024

4) John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, From Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5) and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood- 6) and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father - to Him be the glory and the dominion forever, Amen. 7) BEHOLD HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen 8) *"I am the Alpha and the Omega,"* says the Lord God, *"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

## The Patmos Vision

9) I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus. 10) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, 11) saying, *"write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."*

*"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline..."* Revelation 3:19a

## EPHESUS

2:1) *"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 2) I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; 3) and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. 4) But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5) Therefore remember from where you have fallen and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to remove your lampstand out of its place - unless you repent. 6) Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."*

## Approval

- Ephesus was a serving church, dedicated to doing the work of the Lord.

## Accusation

- Left your first love.  
1 Thessalonians 1:3 *"constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father."*

## Admonition

- Remember from where you have fallen. (Verse 5)
  - Ephesians 2:4-6 (4) But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."
  - Repent! 1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
- Repeat the deeds we did at first.

The letter to Ephesus was closed with verse 7, (7) *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.*

## SMYRNA

8) *And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this: 9) I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10) Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days, and I will give you the crown of life.*

### **Approval**

- Members were persecuted for their faith.

### **Admonition**

- There were no accusations, however, the Lord issued them an admonition. Do not fear, do not be afraid.
  - James 1:12, Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

The letter closes with verse 11, *(11) He who has an ear let him hear what the spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.*

### **PERGAMUM**

12) *And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: the One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: 13) I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is: and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14) But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. 15) So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16) Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.*

### **Approval**

- Members were persecuted for their faith.

### **Accusation**

- The church had been infiltrated by a group called Nicolaitans (which we also heard about in Ephesus).
  - Nicolaitans from (nikao), meaning to conquer or overcome; and (laos) meaning people. Perhaps their desire or objective was to establish a hierarchy within the christian community, where these self appointed leaders could be superior to their followers.

### **Admonition**

- Repent! Or else I am coming quickly and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.
- Today, do we fear the sword of the government, or do we fear the sword of Christ?

The letter closes with verse 17, *(17) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him, I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows except he who receives it.*

### **THYATIRA**

18) *And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: 19) I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. 20) But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman called Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bondservants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21) I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.*

### **Approval**

- Their love and faith and service and perseverance.
- Their works of late were greater than at first.

### **Accusation**

- That you tolerate the woman Jezebel.

### **Admonition**

- I will throw her on a bed of sickness.
- I will subject her followers to great tribulations.
- I will kill her children with pestilence.

- Those are the admonitions that we see for this woman and those who committed adultery with her in verses 22 and 23, *(22) Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. (23) And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.*
- For everyone else that doesn't hold to this teaching,
  - I place no other burden.
  - Hold fast to what you have until I come.
- This exhortation and encouragement is seen in verses 24 through 28, *(24) But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them - I place no other burden on you. (25) Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. (26) He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, To him I will give authority over the nations; (27) And he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I have received authority from My Father; (28) and I will give him the morning star.*
- The letter is closed in verse 29, *(29) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

### **SARDIS**

3:1) *To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2) Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 3) So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 4) But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.*

#### **Approval**

- There was no divine commendation of this church.

#### **Accusation**

- You are dead.

#### **Admonition**

- Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain.
- Remember what you have received and heard and keep it and REPENT!

The letter closes with verses 5 and 6; *(5) He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. (6) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

### **PHILADELPHIA**

7) *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who who shuts and no one opens, says this: 8) I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9) Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie - I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you. 10) Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

#### **Approval**

- They kept Jesus' words. They were faithful.
- They did not deny Jesus' name. They proclaimed the truth.
- They kept His word of perseverance. They remained hopeful.

There were no words of an accusation against the church in Philadelphia, only words of praise.

1 Corinthians 16:9, for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

The letter to Philadelphia closes, (11) *I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (12) He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. (13) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

### **LAODICEA**

14) *To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: 15) I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish you were cold or hot. 16) So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17) Because you say, I am rich, and you have become wealthy, and have need of nothing, and you do not know that you are a wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,*

### **Approval**

- There was no divine commendation or general approval given to this church.

### **Accusation**

- They were lukewarm, neither hot nor cold.
- They thought they were rich, wealthy and had no need for anything. In verse 17 Jesus described them as being wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

### **Admonition**

- Repent! Jesus' words to this church continue in verses 18 through 22.

18) *I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. (19) Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. (20) Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. (21) He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. (22) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

What is the message that our Lord had for the churches and for each of us today? That He is the Incomparable Christ!

Colossians 1:13-20, (13) For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (15) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (16) For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created through Him and for Him. (17) He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (18) He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. (19) For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, (20) and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

**The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him - and of her. A W Tozer**