

Revelation 3 Jesus Reveals Himself to the Churches, Part 2

I don't know what you think of when you hear the word Church.

A) But my hunch is it might be a far cry from what the people in the first century thought of when they thought of the church.

Aa) In the first century in the very beginning the church **started as a movement.**

B) It didn't begin as an institution/ it didn't begin as some traditional learning center.

1) It didn't have any corny banners or any bands/ any buildings or any other things started with the letter B.

C) There were no **facilities/** there was no **staff/** there was no **hierarchy/** from the very beginning the church began as this movement.

1) A gathering moving around an incredible event in history that we call the REZ.

2) It was based on lives connected to a LIVING Savior

The greek word used for Church was the word Ek/ kle/ sia which actually means an assembly or gathering – used 115 times in the greek NT

“a group of people gathering together and moving through life together connected by a central thought, goal, person, or event. –

B) In the History of the Christian Church – that life and person was always Jesus and the event was the Rez.

C) But over time there was a shift that happened in the mindset of **the Ekklesia,**

1) Translators changed the word Ekklesia to the **Church – which** simply meant “The Lord's house” It was born out of the OT idea of the temple.

D) And that **simple linguistic transition** resulted in some **terrible terrible** theology – Church became a Location, a building.

1) And whoever controlled the building controlled the church and whoever controlled the building controlled the scripture.

E) And whoever **controlled the building and controlled the scripture** controlled the people inside of the building

1) and the finances and even in some segments the church controlled the government.

Jesus never intended it to be that way!

A) However that brief look at Church History – reminds us of a fundamental fact – There have always been problems in the Church.

B) The Church was birthed in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost – by Acts 5 – Problem Hypocrisy

1) Acts 6 – Division

B) here in Revelation Ch. 2-3 we are about 60 yrs removed from Pentecost and the birth of the EK/ KLE/ SIA –

A) Jesus writes *personal letters* to seven churches – and FIVE OF the seven churches have some major problems.

B) This blesses me and is a good reminder to me – that **in the Body of Christ there are flaws**

1) We all have our flaws, imperfections, we all make mistakes – All sinners!

C) Speaking of Mistakes – came across – **some BULLETIN BLOOPERS**

1) These were some announcements in some real Church Bulletins – that had a word misspelled, comma left out – changed the message slightly

Don't let worry kill you let the Church help!

Thursday Night Potluck – Prayer & Medication to follow. – (Instead of meditation

For those who have Children and don't know it we have a nursery down stairs.

The rose on the Pulpit this morning is to announce the Birth of David Allen Beltzer – the sin of Reverend and Mrs Beltzer

Now those are innocent misprints – but they point out a fundamental truth – namely we all have Bloopers / We all have Faults & Problems

A) The Church is full of bloopers/ sinners!

B) I don't say that as an excuse to excuse away carnality – but as a fact – as a Reality!

C) And that is why I so appreciate this portion of Scripture – Because we see Jesus – **caring** for these flawed, messed up pp – who are a part of His body.

He singles out seven Churches seven is the # of completion – He sends these letters to them.

A) And five of the seven Churches have problems –

B) I believe He singles out these seven Churches because He Knew:

1) that the **problems and the needs** faced by these churches would represent the problems and the needs faced by believers throughout the centuries.

C) That those of us living in SD CA in the year 2012 could read these **letters and identify with – the needs and the problems** faced by these churches.

D) And we should be encouraged that rather than abandoning these believers for not having it together
1) Our Loving Savior comes to them to **address their error** – to confront their sin – and to MEET their needs.

Reminder: In each letter Jesus doesn't just point out the problem, but He reveals himself to the Church – as the answer to their problem.

A)The Revelation that Jesus gives of Himself is in **direct correlation** with the Problem or the need that this Church was facing.

B)As we are honest about our sin – our problems – our needs – **we MUST** remember that this same Jesus is here to meet us.

C)Last week we looked at the first four churches – IN CH. 2

D)Today we are moving into Ch. 3 –Final three Churches – 2 had problems /sin issues to deal with and one had a need.

Here is what we are going to do today: Start with Laodicea – time – finish with Sardis and Philly.

A)I will explain why as we go along!

14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

Laodicea: Problem- Lukewarm

A)Hot tea – Love – every morning – cold Ice tea – great – every afternoon. – Panera {Lukewarm –no

B)Cold Chocolate milk – great refreshing – Hot coco
1)Lukewarm – gross

C)I think that it is safe to say that Lukewarm drinks are pretty disgusting -

D)And here Rev.3 Jesus compares the church of Laodicea to a lukewarm drink/ Make me Sick –
1)vomit – KJV spew – nice way saying

Lukewarm condition:

A)LukeWarm – **is being comfortable in your present state:**

B)Think of it this way: **If a room is too hot** – you are moved to do something. -

1)Open window – turn on the AC – **take off layers**

C)And **if it is too cold** – you are also moved to do something – Close window or turn on the heat.

1)But a lukewarm room is comfortable. {Jesus prayer

D)So too the problem with a Lukewarm Christian is they are comfortable in their present spiritual state. No urgency to change!

A)In the case of the Church in Laodicea – their Lukewarm condition also **made them delusional -**

B) They saw themselves V17 you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'

C) But Jesus said: here is reality You don't know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked
1) **That is quite the contrast –**

D) Things are so bad v.20 Jesus is on the outside of the Church – knocking on the door to see if they will let Him in.

His Revelation: Rev 3:14-15 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

A) Jesus comes to this church that thinks – they have it all together they are rich and have need of nothing

B) He reveals himself as the one who is going to be faithful and true Witness

C) In other words - He is Faithful to tell us the truth – the whole truth & nothing but the truth

1) What we hear from Jesus will **not be Diluted – watered down or Distorted** – Falsified in any way.

In Jesus we can be assured that we are not going to hear what we want to hear / but what we need to hear

A) Jesus is a true friend who will tell you when – Sauce on your chin/ or Fly is open/

Outfit is not working for you.

B) A true friend is one who is going to come to you when He sees a problem in your life. {Not ignore
1) **Not talk to others about you– He is going to talk to you – that is What you want in a friend**

C) That is What you want in a doctor!

1) **if you have a terrible life threatening Disease you don't want doctor to tell you it is just a cold!**

By revealing Himself as the Faithful and true witness - Jesus is declaring that His diagnosis is totally reliable

A) Notice He also reveals himself to them as the *THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD!*

B) Now this Phrase has bothered some & caused confusion in the minds of others who have misread it to say that *Jesus is part of God's Creation*

C) The J.W. for instance claim that God created Jesus & that Jesus in turn Created everything else .

That however is not a proper understanding of what this verse is declaring

A) The Word Beginning in the Grk is the word Ar-Kha – it is a word that means source of all creation or the Chief –

B) In other words it means that He is the one who is over all Creation .

C) That is an idea that is consistent with the Scriptures:

John 1:1-3

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. “

Colossians 1:16

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

So this is what is implied here in this Description of the Physician that Jesus is the one who *knows everything about you* –

A) *He has an accurate understanding of Your Condition –and being the Source of God’s Creation –He can do something about it*

B) Jesus is the Great Physician who is the Most Capable in dealing w/ our Spiritual Condition –

1) Specialist – Only one w/ the Answer & the Ability !

C) And He is very willing to come to us – Heal, fix restore that which is broken.

That is the starting point for getting healthy – See that we are broken – see ourselves honestly.

A) See that we are not rich and in need of nothing – we are naked and poor – great needs.

B) That is why I felt led to start with the Church in Laodicea – Before we can be made whole, we need to realize there is a problem.

C) We have to be willing to be honest – with Jesus and with each other.

1) Claire in her testimony today – mentioned – Mask Ashamed of her past – felt not accepted.

D) Reality: We all have a past – all have struggles – 1) There are no perfect pp in this room.

E) But we believe in a perfect Savior – Who is committed to making us whole.

You might have thought – that took guts for Claire to get up here and share what she shared.

A) *It should be the norm.* that kind of honesty

B) She shared – that freedom came for her when my wife Denise – shared her past.

C) You have no idea who you will impact by being real – sharing your story - struggle

A person should be able to come into this place and feel protected. – Not judged.

A) To feel if I share my past – **OK** – they all have a past too.

B) If I share what I am struggling with – **OK** – they are all struggling too. – Issues

C) We don't celebrate that- We don't accept that

**Opposite: We need to be a community that says:
Yes we are flawed – sin – we have struggles**

A) And we are not ok with that! – We don't accept that in ourselves / others

B) But we are committed to being real with Jesus and real with each other- **because we believe that only Jesus can make us whole.** {Buy from Him

C) We share with each other – Accountability prayer and coming along side.

D) Small groups are so important – you have friends who you can be real with – real with you.

1) Build those relationships

C) Have friends in your life – who you can go to and say:

1) If you see anything in my life that is off – out of wack – you have my permission to call me on it.

Will you be honest with Jesus today: Honest with yourself. – Lukewarm – pretending to be on fire.

A) No urgency to change your condition – comfortable –

B) I think the tell tale sign of a Lukewarm person is a lack of prayer.

1) **Comfortable in their marriage** – even though if honest – not even close to the Standard laid out in Scripture.

C) No urgency to pray – Lord make me a better Husband – make me a better wife.

D) Comfortable in ministry- Routine

Comfortable living in this world:

A) Even though they know that they are not making a real impact. No burden for the lost.

B) We don't pray – Lord show me how to impact my sphere of influence.

1) That should bother us. – Very least pray!

C) Cry out to Jesus today – Lord I need you. Lord touch my heart –

Be honest with each other – No mask-not judged

A) Struggling Porn – Mens group / womens group

B) Marriage Problems – Home group leader

C)Financial struggles – Instead of pretending – It is ok – spending money you don't have

1)Be real – struggling

D)That is the kind of EKKLESIA –I WANT TO BE A PART OF – REAL – HONEST

1)In humility telling Jesus – we don't have it all together

E)Jesus resists the proud grace to the humble.

Possible Close:

Starts with Seeing ourselves correctly –

Next Church Sardis – Problem: Name that they were alive but really dead.

A)They were in need of Revival – from the Holy Spirit.

B)Again that doesn't happen until you realize there is a problem.

Lets move on to Sardis:

Rev 3:1-2

And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,
"These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

A)Church of Sardis – Problem: Dead or dying.

B)Part of their problem started – like Laodicea – they were self confident –

1)They fell asleep – stopped watching.

C)Sardis Has been called: *“The Fruitless Church/ The church of spiritual Apathy; the Dead church; The Feeble church; “The church with a Reputation, but needing Resuscitation!”*

His Revelation: 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:

A)The seven Spirits of God does not mean that there are seven different spirits of God – 7 is the Number of Completion

B)This phrase is a reference to the complete sevenfold ministry of the Holy Spirit that would rest upon Jesus the Messiah given to us in Isaiah Ch.11:1

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Jesus the Messiah would come in the Fullness of the Spirit. – This is what we cut ourselves off from when we seek to live self confident lives.

A)Depending upon our strength our resources rather than Jesus and the power of His spirit

Spirit of the Lord - speaks of fullness – no partial – speaks all the resources of God.

Wisdom: = knowledge applied or the proper application of knowledge

Jesus said: John 14: Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth.

Understanding : the faculty of insight to discern - to look at something and see it clearly. Holy Spirit brings discernment

Spirit of Counsel - Ability to deliberate to judge; to have right words to say at right time

Spirit of might = power and strength

Of knowledge: He is the one who knows all things and He reveals it to us - opens word! Gives application; instruction

Finally - spirit of the fear of the Lord –

A) Reverential awe – Longing to please God

B) Conviction of the Holy Spirit that points out sin – Alarm in our hearts

C) The problem with a person who is becoming dead is they ignore that conviction –

1) their heart becomes callous –

C)) When we ignore the conviction of the HS in our lives or when we try to live the Christian life in our own strength –

1) we cut ourselves off from God's Spirit/ Power

Your life will grow mechanical and machine like instead of being led and directed by the Lord !

A) What is needed is to get back to that place of dependency upon Jesus –

B) There is a desperation: Lord fill me today with Your spirit!

C) Lord I can't do this without You! – Any of it – not effectively – not consistently

Final Church: Right perception of themselves – Philadelphia

Philadelphia: Need – Strength

A) Philadelphia great name – brotherly love

B) This church was in a city that had endured a lot of tragedy {Jason back ground on Wed.}

1) The Church was touched by the tragedy– Rains on Just and unjust.

2) Believers were not shielded when economy collapsed.

C) So in this city that had gone through so much – stood this vibrant group of believers in Jesus.

1) Jesus has nothing bad to say about this church – only good.

D)They were surrounded by the marks of tragedy and they were in a dark city –

1) Satan's throne was prevalent – But they stood strong – remained faithful

HIS REVELATION:

Revelation: Rev 3:7 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

Jesus reveals Himself as the one who is Holy and true

A)Holy speaks of the name of God – God often referred to Himself as the *HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL - Purity*

B)TRUE – speaks of that which is Authentic / Genuine

C) And as the one who holds the Key OF DAVID. – this speaks of Authority

D)The reference To the Key of David is from Isaiah 22:20-25 In that passage it is given to a man named Eliakim– who is a Servant of King Hezekiah

He was Kind of a Chief of Staff - he was given authority to open & shut doors that led into the Treasuries of the King.

A)So to this Church that is in need of strength –

C)Jesus says I am the one who has the Authority to open and shut doors.

1)I have access to the treasuries and the resources of the King.

D)Open doors for ministry and service – opportunities{ Paul prayed often – an open door
1Cor.16: 9 We read where Paul Said *For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

Open doors also means opposition:

A)This is what Jesus is saying to this church and to us today –

B)Although you might see yourself as having little strength

C)I have authority to open doors – and I have resources to give you – if you are willing to walk through those open doors.

D)I want to show Myself strong on your behalf to make an impact in this world for My Kingdom
1)My glory

Breakdown – Proper view of self – creates a desperation

That turns into a Longing for Dependency upon the HS

That Opens doors for Divine Resources

**E)I will empower you by My spirit to walk through
that door – be used for My Kingdom**