

Only What's Done for Christ Will Last

REVELATION 3:7-22

• Dr. Matt Castro

■ Central Church

■ July 3, 2022

1. What matters to Christ Jesus, the Risen Lord, should matter to His churches, so that they may accomplish what lasts.
 - a. A sermon from the Risen Lord, Christ Jesus, to His bride (Rev. 1).
 - b. A church that seems insignificant but is positioned to be used (Rev. 7:8-13)
 - c. Church That Appears Blessed, but Is Useless For The Sake of the Kingdom. (Rev. 7:14-17)
 - d. Church That Relies On Christ Alone, Accomplishes What Lasts. (Rev. 3:18-21)
 - e. Will We Learn From The Past? (Rev. 3:22)

Revelation 3:7-22

To the Church in Philadelphia

⁷“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

⁸“I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹²The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. ¹³He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

To the Church in Laodicea

¹⁴“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

¹⁵“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²²He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

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Discussion Questions:

1. Are you a History Buff? Is there a period of history that interests you? How have you used history to influence your life?
2. How have you typically viewed the Book of Revelation? How has the knowledge that Jesus is the one, who is addressing his churches in Revelation, affected your attention to His words?
3. How do you usually view churches that seem small and insignificant? What are your opinions of them?
4. Do you believe that large and resource rich churches are more useful to Jesus and His Kingdom? Why or why not.
5. Do you see any similarities between the American church and the church of Laodicea? Why or why not?
6. What are you relying on for hope and happiness in your life that is not Jesus Christ and His gospel?

Quote for the Week. . .

by Phil Newton, Southwoods Baptist Church

“Over time, these practices shape a pastor’s habits. They become ingrained into his psyche. He may feel guilt, not over neglecting the Word and Spirit, but for his failure to draw a crowd and provoke enough decisions. He feels pressure from ministry colleagues to increase productivity through techniques used by other high-profile revivalist preachers. But the more responses he sees, the more he slides deeper into self-dependence. The more he falls away from reflecting the humble ministry of Jesus in John 13.”