

"The Greeting"

Part 2

Revelation 1:4-8

Introduction: This is our 3rd study in the book of Revelation and we are currently looking at the greeting of the letter.

We have looked at several points about this letter:

1. It is a revelation.
2. It was given by God, to Jesus, to the angel to John, to the 7 churches and then to us.
3. It is a book which promises a blessing to both the teacher and the student.
4. The greeting is from the Trinity.
5. God's supply to us is grace and peace.

Now we are currently in verse 5 and it is in this verse and verse 6 that John references 3 points about who Jesus is and then he references 3 things which He has done for us.

I. **The Trinity**

Part 2

Now the greeting in this letter is from God the Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ.

Notice Revelation 1:4

We looked at this verse last week and here we were able to see that the greeting is from God the Father, and the 7 Spirits which are before the throne and this is a reference to the FULNESS of the Spirit. There are not 7 Spirits of God.

Isaiah 11:2

² And 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;

We looked at each of these last week and what it is that they mean to us.

A. **Jesus Christ**

1. Who He is.

Notice Revelation 1:5

a. **The Faithful Witness**

Last week we looked at Jesus as the FAITHFUL WITNESS. There is much in this letter which Jesus will reveal and as we work our way through we can be sure that each and every Word will come to pass just as it is recorded. This is very important because in this book we shall see:

1. The destruction of Satan.
2. The removal of the curser.
3. The eternal home of the saints.
4. The destruction of sin.
5. The Kingdom of Jesus Christ.
6. The eternal state for the believer.

The list continues on and on and so we can rest in all that we are told as we study this book knowing that it is given to us by the FAITHFUL WITNESS.

Revelation 3:14

¹⁴ *And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

b. **The First Begotten of the dead.**

Notice Revelation 1:5

This has a special meaning for all of us who know Jesus as our Savior.

This does not mean that He was the first person who rose from the dead. There were many others before Jesus but the difference was that all the others died again. Jesus rose from the grave and He is alive forever more. But there is more here.

The idea here is that Jesus is PRE-EMINENT/first among all of God's creation that is in rank.

Colossians 1:18

¹⁸ *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

Now along with being the first in rank He is also first in experience.

Hebrews 2:9-10

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

¹⁰ *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

As the Captain of our salvation He was the first to dive into the stormy waters of death and then come out on the other side thus making a way for us to pass safely through death.

Psalm 23:4

⁴ *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

Death can only cast its shadow upon us for Jesus Christ has conquered death.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

⁵¹ *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

⁵² *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

⁵³ *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

⁵⁴ *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

⁵⁵ *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

c. **The Prince of the kings of the earth.**

Notice Revelation 1:5

When I look at this title of our Lord it blesses my heart abundantly. Let me explain. We live in a world that is ever changing and as we have talked about before our world is headed at break neck speed toward the Tribulation period. There have been some dark times and there will be dark times if our Lord tarries.

But in this verse and in this title there is much for us to cling to. If we notice the verse very closely we can see that each of these titles is in the present tense. This means that Jesus is at this current time The Prince/Ruler of the kings of the earth.

This means that our Lord is Sovereign over all the affairs of this world. He ruled over the kings in the past, He rules over them in the present and He will rule over them in the future.

Daniel 2:20-22

²⁰ *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:*

²¹ *And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

²² *He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*

Daniel 4:17, 24-26

¹⁷ *This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.*

²⁴ *This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:*

²⁵ *That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.*

²⁶ *And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.*

Psalm 75:6-7

⁶ *For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.*

⁷ *But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.*

From all these verses we can see that our Lord is in control over ALL the events of our world therefore we can rest in Him to carry out His will.

2. **What He has done.**

a. **He loves us.**

Notice Revelation 1:5

Here we see that Jesus LOVED us. The word LOVED is in the present tense and it means He is LOVING us. He did not love us in the past and then stop loving us. God loves us with an everlasting love.

Jeremiah 31:3

³ *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

b. **He washed us.**

Notice Revelation 1:5

The word "washed" here can also be translated "freed". Both of these are true of the believer in Christ.

When we came to Jesus Christ for salvation He washed all of our sin away.

Hebrews 8:12

¹² *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

Psalm 103:11-12

¹¹ *For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

¹² *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

When we were saved He also freed us from our sins.

John 8:36

³⁶ *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

The very power by which Jesus came out of the grave is the power which now is given to us and therefore it is through His power that we are freed from the power of sin.

c. **He has promoted us.**

Notice Revelation 1:6

We are kings and priests unto God. The title of KING speaks of ROYALTY. We are children of the King.

The word PRIEST speaks of ACCESS. In the Old Testament only the high priest could enter into God's presence once a year. But because we are priests we have access to God all the time.

Conclusion:

If you are not saved you need to know:

1. God loves you.
2. He will set you free and wash you clean.
3. He will promote you to His child and grant you access into His presence.