

Revelation

*The Consummation of God's Plan
through Jesus Christ*

Stonebriar Community Church

Marathon Fellowship

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The Old Rugged Cross

George Bennard

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and
best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

The Old Rugged Cross

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O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

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To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
where His glory forever I'll share.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

REVELATION

The Consummation of God's Plan through Jesus Christ

I. THE MESSAGE TO THE PROPHET:

- *“Write What You Have Seen” (Chap. 1)*

II. THE MESSAGE FOR THE PEOPLE:

- *“What Is Now”—Present (Chaps. 2–3)*

III. THE MESSAGE OF PROPHECY:

- *“What Will Take Place Later”—Future
(Chaps. 4–22)*

I. The Message to the Prophet: *"Write what you have seen" (Chap. 1)*

- ***The Prologue (1:1-8)***

1. **The superscription (vv. 1-3)**

- *The uniqueness & completeness of the revelation*

2. **The salutation (v. 4)**

- *The Apostle John to the 7 Churches*

3. **The subject (vv. 5-6)**

- *Jesus Christ*

4. **The synopsis (vv. 7-8)**

- *He is coming!*

I. The Message to the Prophet (cont.)

- *The Preparation of the Prophet (1:9-20)*

1. The setting for the commission (vv. 9-11)

- *Persecution*

2. The source of the commission (vv. 12-16)

- *The risen & glorified Christ*

3. The statement of the commission (vv. 17-20)

- *Jesus: The eternal, living, risen Christ*
- *The outline for the book (present & future)*
- *The 7 angels & 7 golden lampstands defined*

The Description of the Risen, Glorified Christ in Revelation 1:12-16

- **3 Vital Stages of Sonship of Jesus Christ:**
 - 1. The Preincarnate, Eternal Son**
 - 2. The Incarnate, Earthly Son**
 - 3. The Exalted, Heavenly Son**

The Description of Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:12-16

–His Clothing (robe): Priest, King & Judge

- 1. His Head & Hair (white): Wisdom & Dignity, Eternality**
- 2. His Eyes (blazing fire): Piercing Judgment & Omniscience**
- 3. His Feet (bronze glowing): Moral Purity**
- 4. His Voice (rushing waters): Powerful & Authoritative**
- 5. His Right Hand (held 7 stars): Protector of His Church**
- 6. His Mouth (sword): Judging by His Word, King-Warrior**
- 7. His Face (sun): Holiness & Righteousness**

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The Seven Churches of Revelation



The 7 Churches of Revelation

- Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia & Laodicea
- They are historic and representative.
 1. The number “seven” is symbolic & representative for John.
 2. The promise to each of the churches at the close of each letter is the exhortation to hear what the Spirit says to “the churches.”
 3. These 7 churches may represent the 7 successive periods of church history.

The 7 Letters to the 7 Churches in Revelation 2–3

- The risen & glorified Christ is the Lord of the Churches and the One who evaluates them.
- The letters follow a common literary format:
 1. A description of the recipient & the Author (Christ)
 2. A commendation of works (except Sardis & Laodicea)
 3. A condemnation or rebuke (except Smyrna & Philadelphia)
 4. An exhortation to specific action
 5. A promise

The Church in Ephesus (2:1-7)

- **The City of Ephesus:**
 - The capital of the province of Asia Minor (pop. 300,000)
 - The leading seaport, commercial city (immorality)
 - The Temple of Diana (Roman goddess of Love)
- **The Church in Ephesus:**
 - Founded by the Apostle Paul (Acts 19–20)
 - Pastored by Timothy (1 & 2 Timothy)
 - The Apostle John was the Bishop (elder) in A.D. 80-90's
(Gospel of John, 1–3 John were written from Ephesus)





The Church in Ephesus (2:1-7) cont.

1. Christ (v. 1)

- Protects & Present (fellowships w/) the Church

2. Commendation (vv. 2-3)

- Orthodoxy & Zeal for the Truth
(Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy, 1–3 John; cf. Acts 20)

3. Condemnation (v. 4)

- Loss of Love for Christ & People

4. Exhortation (vv. 5-6)

- 3 Steps of Restoration (“Remember,” “Repent,” “Repeat”)

5. Promise (v. 7)

- Eternal Life

Who were the “Nicolaitans”?

- Some Church Fathers link the origin to Nicolas mentioned in Acts 6 (one of the 7 men appointed to distribute food to the church).
- Etymology: “Laity-Conquerors”
- Revelation 2:14-15 links this sin with immorality & idolatry.
- Perhaps this sin represents abuse of power by the clergy to entice the laity to commit immorality as a way of worshipping God & celebrating Christian liberty.

The Church in Ephesus (2:1-7)

- Christ: Protects & Present in the Church
- Commendation: Zeal for the Truth
- Condemnation: Loveless Orthodoxy
- Exhortation: Repent, Remember, Repeat
- Promise: Eternal Life