

Revelation

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

Stonebriar Community Church

Marathon Fellowship

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Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace
How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost,
But now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught
My heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious
Did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Amazing Grace

Through many dangers,
Toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought
Me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there
Ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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)*

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 Churches of Revelation (cont.)

- **A Possible Symbolism of the 7 Churches of Revelation Representing the 7 Periods of Church History**
 1. **Ephesus: The apostolic church (1st cent.)**
 2. **Smyrna: The persecuted church (2nd-3rd cent.)**
 3. **Pergamum: The imperial church (4th-5th cent.)**
 4. **Thyatira: The church of the Middle Ages (6th-12th cent.)**
 5. **Sardis: The reformed church (13th-17th cent.)**
 6. **Philadelphia: The missionary church (18th-19th cent.)**
 7. **Laodicea: The apostate church (20th-21st cent.)**

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 7 Churches of Revelation 2–3

Church

Characteristic

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Ephesus | Loveless Orthodoxy |
| 2. Smyrna | Persecuted yet Faithful |
| 3. Pergamum | Faithful yet Compromising Morally |
| 4. Thyatira | Faithful yet Compromising Doctrinally |
| 5. Sardis | Spiritually Complacent |
| 6. Philadelphia | Faithful |
| 7. Laodicea | Spiritually Lukewarm |

The Church in Philadelphia (3:7-13)

- **The City of Philadelphia:**

- Approximately 30 mi. SE of Sardis
- The name of the city means “Brotherly Love”
- Although many gods were worshiped there, its principal deity was Dionysus, the god of wine.

- **The Church in Philadelphia:**

- This church, along with the church in Smyrna, is the only church without a statement of rebuke from the Lord.

The Church in Philadelphia (3:7-13) cont.

1. Christ (v. 7)

- Holy & True, who holds the key to spiritual treasure

2. Commendation (v. 8)

- Faithful even when weary

3. Promise (vv. 9-13)

- Vindication from God's enemies
- Exemption from God's worldwide wrath to come
- Jesus' eternal reward

The 7 Churches of Revelation 2–3

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