

The Lord of the Church

The Glory of Christ

Revelation 1:9-20

When I was a boy, there was a popular game show on television called “To Tell the Truth.” Three people would come out in front of the audience and guest panel claiming to be the same person. Then, a statement would be read about something special or unusual this person had done. After that, the panel would ask questions of the three persons for a period of time. Then, they, along with the audience, would try to guess which one was the real person. The climax of the program was when the announcer would ask... *“Would the real name please stand up?”* There were times when many picked the real person, but there were also times when nearly everybody was fooled.

Sometimes when I hear people talk about Jesus, I feel like I’m have a faulty view of the real Jesus.

John saw the real Jesus. This is a picture of the all powerful, majestic, and glorious Christ. This is the Jesus who has conquered death (v. 8) and stands with the Church in this age (v. 13a).

You can break down this text around three perspectives.

1. WHERE HE WAS (VV. 9-11)

- A. *“On the island called Patmos”* (v. 9). This island was no Miami Beach or like one of the Hawaiian Islands. John was not there for a holiday for a vacation. Patmos was twenty-two square miles of volcanic and barren land. John was there as a political prisoner of Rome doing manual labor six days a week breaking up and carrying volcanic rock at ninety years of age. Why?

Because of the same thing he had been doing for sixty years—faithfully proclaiming the Word of God and being a witness of the gospel of grace. What price are we willing to pay to be true to the Word of God?

- B. *“In the Spirit on the Lord’s Day”* (vv. 10-11). John received this revelation as he was controlled by the Spirit, worshipping Jesus on *“the Lord’s Day”* (i.e. Sunday). Literally, this reads, *“The day belonging to the Lord.”* That’s what Sunday should be to all believers. It’s the Lord’s Day, not our day. It’s the day we focus on Him; we honor Him.

Notice that the greatest revelation was given to John in the most difficult circumstance of his life.

2. WHAT HE SAW (VV. 12-16)

Eight Attributes-- The Real Jesus...

- A. Is a Faithful High Priest (*“Robe to the floor”* v. 13b). Only a judge or high priest wore this kind of robe. This is the robe of the high priest because it has a gold sash going across the chest.

Hebrews 4:15-16. We have a high priest who understands our weaknesses, our temptations, and our trials. We can go to him in prayer anytime we need help.

- B. Is Absolutely Holy (*Head and hair were white”* v. 14a). **1 John 1:5.** There is no sin or darkness in Him. He is absolutely pure and holy. His followers must learn to hate sin and strive for holiness.

- C. Sees and Knows All things. (*"Eyes like a flame of fire"* v. 14b).
Hebrews 4:13. Nothing is hidden from God. He sees and knows everything and He is the one whom we must give an account. Practice the presence of Christ.
- D. Is Strong and Powerful. (*"His feet were like...bronze"* v. 15a).
Bronze is the metal of strength. This is a picture of swift strength. **Isaiah 63:3**. In the end, He will destroy all those who oppose Him.
- E. Speaks With Authority (*"Voice like the sound of rushing (many) waters"* v. 15b). **Matthew 28:18**. All authority has been given to Jesus. **Matthew 7:28-29**. People were always amazed at His teaching because He spoke with authority. His Word should be our only authority. We should listen and obey.
- F. Is In Control. (*"In His right hand He held seven stars"* v. 16a). The *"right hand"* is the hand of strong preservation. The *"stars"* are the *"angels/messengers"* to the churches (v. 20b). This is what helped John be a faithful preacher.
- G. Is the Judge of all Men (*"Sharp, double-edged sword"* v. 16a).
Hebrews 4:12. This is the penetrating Word of God. **Revelation 19:15**. He simply gives the command and all opposition is destroyed.
- H. Is Glorious in His Character (*"Face like the sun shining"* v. 16b).
This is why our number one goal should be to become more like Jesus.

3. WHAT HE HEARD (VV. 17-20)

When John saw the real Jesus, he fell at His feet like a dead man. That's always the reaction of those who see the real Jesus (Isaiah; Peter). Christ tells him... "Don't be afraid..."

- Of Life (*"First and Last"* v. 17b).
- Of Death (*"The Living One"* v. 18a).
- Of Eternity (*"Keys of death and Hades"* v. 18b).

Summary

- (1) The Church can have hope because He stands with us.
- (2) The world will one day bow before this glorious Jesus.
- (3) Every Believer can live without fear of anything or anybody.