

LOVE JESUS

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

October 20, 2019

Revelation 2:1-7

1. The book of Revelation begins with a promise. Rev 1:3
“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”
2. We need to become familiar with chapter one because it gives us an accurate description of our Glorified Lord in the midst of His churches.
NOTE: It is important to have a proper view of our Lord because He is no longer the Suffering Servant who once walked among men.
3. The Lord told John to write down what he saw (the vision of Christ), and the things which are (Christ’s description of this current age), and the things that will take place once the church age ends.
4. A careful study of chapters two and three will give us a great deal of insight into what pleases and what displeases our Lord when it comes to His churches.
5. The church at Ephesus did many things right, but they were not doing them for the right reason—a deep love for the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. There are two types of professing Christians in the world; those who actually know and love Jesus and those who only know about Jesus and therefore cannot really love Him.
7. Many put their faith in a concept or idea and not in a Person whom they have met personally.
8. This leads to all kinds of problems.
 - a. We cannot really love Christ if we do not know Him.
 - b. We will not fully obey Christ if we do not love Him.
 - c. We cannot actually enjoy Christ if we do not obey Him.
9. If our relationship with Jesus Christ is what it should be we will not come to church on empty looking to be filled.
 - a. Feed me.
 - b. Entertain me.
 - c. Inspire me.
 - d. Make me feel good.
10. Rather we will gather as participants in a shared worship experience. Col 3:14-16
“Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom **teaching and admonishing one another** with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
NOTE: The Psalms should serve as an example related to all music used in church. They included instruction, encouragement, history, doctrine, praise and thanksgiving. They informed the mind, inspired the heart, and instructed the will.
11. Those who truly know and love Jesus will know what it is to worship Him regardless of their surrounding and circumstances.
12. Paul and Silas had a great worship service after having been beaten with rods, thrown into prison, and shackled with their feet in stocks. Acts 16:23-25

13. Many today cannot worship unless the surroundings are to their liking, the temperature is just right, the chairs are comfortable, the music fits their personal preferences, and the preacher is adept at preaching from the Bible without causing them any personal discomfort.

14. This morning I want us to explore what I would term a divine progression.

I. To know Jesus is to love Him.

A. Jesus, while praying to the Father, defined eternal life in John 17:3.

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

B. According to Jesus only those who actually know Him will gain entrance into heaven. Matt 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'”

C. Peter pointed out that we can know and love Jesus without actually seeing Him.

1 Peter 1:6-9

“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and **though you have not seen Him, you love Him**, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”

NOTE: Peter took it for granted that the Christians to whom he was writing actually loved Jesus and lived accordingly.

D. Our love for Jesus is directly related to our knowledge of Him and our intimate relationship with Him.

E. My thought is that if we do not love Him it's because we do not know Him.

II. To love Jesus is to obey Jesus.

A. John linked eternal life and obedience together. John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

B. Jesus pointed out that those who truly love Him will obey Him. John 14:15, 21, 23-24

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments...He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and **he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him**...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and **My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.** 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.”

C. It is one thing to sing, “Oh, How I Love Jesus,” but it is quite another thing to live a life of obedience that says, “Oh, how I love Jesus.”

III. To obey Jesus is to enjoy Jesus.

A. Those who love Jesus and subsequently obey Him will experience an intimate and personal relationship with both the Father and the Son. (Note bold print above in II/B)

B. The same thought is continued in John 15:9-11.

9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."

APPLICATION

1. I love the simple way that John summarized the Christian life in 1 John 3:23-24.
"This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. 24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."
2. Are you enjoying and finding joy in your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. Is your life characterized by loving obedience?
4. Can you say with confidence, "I know and love Jesus?"
5. When it comes to our relationship with the Lord honesty is the best policy.