

Success of teacher → Growth of students

Glory of teacher ← Glory of students

Shame of teacher ← Shame of students

Jesus ← Christians
Christian church

Priests "must be holy to their God and must not profane the name of their God." Leviticus 21:6

profane = treat as common; defile

1

Praise for some churches...

"For this reason, ever since I heard about **your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people**, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."

Ephesians 1:15-16

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because **your faith is being reported all over the world.**"

Romans 1:8

2

Rebuke for some churches...

“Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are **still worldly—mere infants in Christ**. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. **You are still worldly.**”

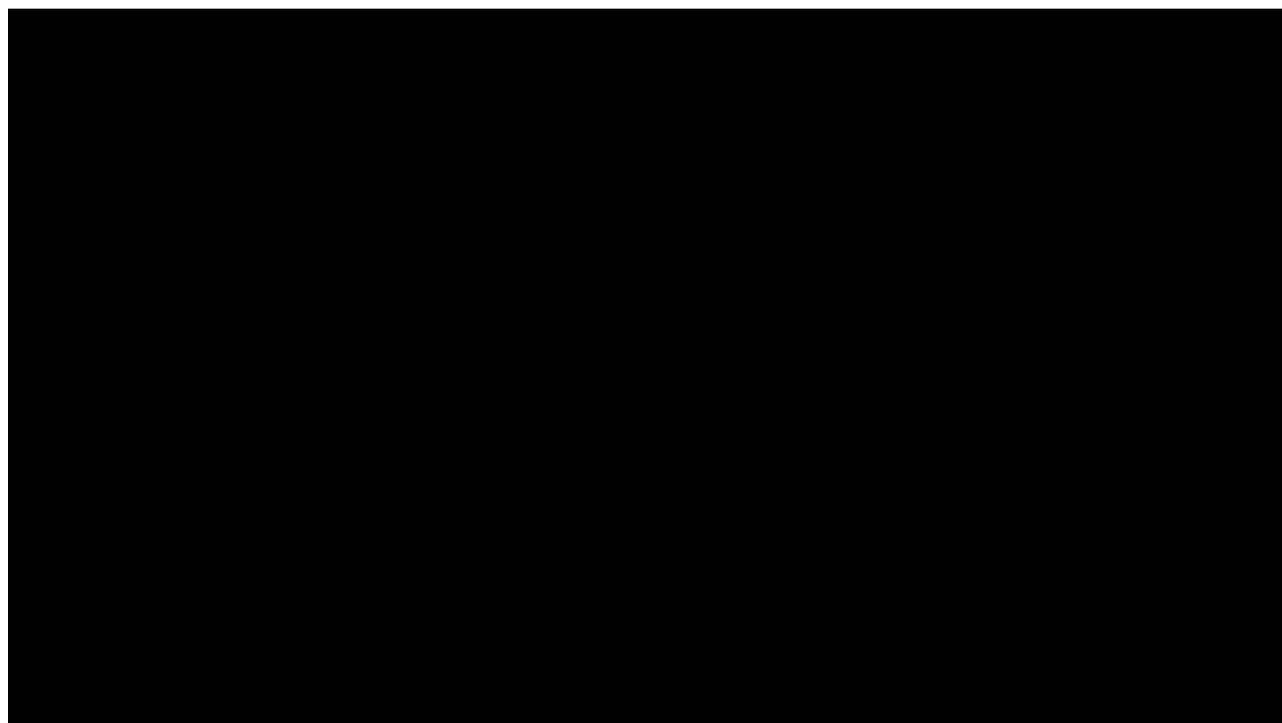
1 Corinthians 3:1-3a

3

“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because **you no longer try to understand**. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, **you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!** Anyone who lives on milk, being **still an infant**, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

Hebrews 5:11-14

4



5

The Hope of the Church

Revelation 1:9-3:22

ref.ly/Re1;niv



6

Revelation 1:9-20

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me **a loud voice like a trumpet,** ¹¹ which said: **'Write on a scroll** what you see and send it to **the seven churches** to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

7

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw **seven golden lampstands,** ¹³ and **among the lampstands was someone like a son of man,** dressed in a **robe reaching down to his feet** and with a **golden sash** around his chest. ¹⁴ The **hair** on his head was **white like wool**, as white as snow, and **his eyes were like blazing fire.** ¹⁵ His feet were like **bronze glowing in a furnace**, and his voice was like **the sound of rushing waters.** ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. **His face was like the sun** shining in all its brilliance.

8

"As I looked, "thrones were set in place,
 and the **Ancient of Days** took his seat.
 His clothing was as white as snow;
 the hair of his head was **white like wool**.
 His throne was **flaming with fire**,
 and its wheels were all ablaze.
 A river of fire was flowing,
 coming out from before him.
 Thousands upon thousands attended him;
 ten thousand times ten thousand
 stood before him.
 The court was seated,
 and the books were opened." Daniel 7:9-10

9

"On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I
 was standing on the bank of the great river, the
 Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a
 man **dressed in linen**, with a **belt of fine gold** from
 Uphaz around his waist. His body was like topaz,
 his **face like lightning**, his **eyes like flaming
 torches**, his arms and legs like the gleam of
burnished bronze, and **his voice** like the sound of
 a multitude."

Daniel 10:4-6

10

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead
 Then he placed his right hand on me and said:
 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.
¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look,
 I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of
 death and Hades.

Hades = place where the dead are held

11

¹⁹ "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is
 now and what will take place later. ²⁰ The mystery
 of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand
 and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The
 seven stars are the angels of the seven churches,
 and the seven lampstands are the seven churches

The glorious Son of Man was among the churches
 He knew them
 He had specific messages for each of them

12

Revelation 2-3: Letters to Churches

Jesus knew their challenging situations

- Trouble, poverty
- Persecution, imprisonment, slander
- Living where Satan's throne is

Jesus knew their shortcomings

- Abandoned their first love for Christ
- Tolerating evil and evil people who were leading people astray
- Looked alive, but they were actually dead!
- Imagined that they were rich and without needs, but actually wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, naked

13

Revelation 2-3: Letters to Churches

Jesus gave commands to the churches

- Be earnest and repent
- Do the things you did at first
- Do not be afraid of suffering
- Be faithful, even to the point of death
- Remember and hold on to the Truth
- Endure patiently
- Get true riches from Christ
- **"Overcome" / "Be victorious"**

14

Revelation 2-3: Letters to Churches

Amazing hope for those who 'overcome'

- Eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God
- No judgment
- Given a holy, precious name
- Will rule over the nations
- Clothed in white, and claimed by Christ
- A part of God's temple
- Residents of the city of God
- Seated with Christ on His throne!

All pointing to when Christ returns...

15

Revelation 19:6-8

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear."

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

16

Revelation 21:1-2

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.**

17

Revelation 21:9-11

⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ **It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.**

18

The Big Idea

The great hope of the Church is
the **glory and presence** of our Savior **today**
and the **glory** He is making in us for **tomorrow**

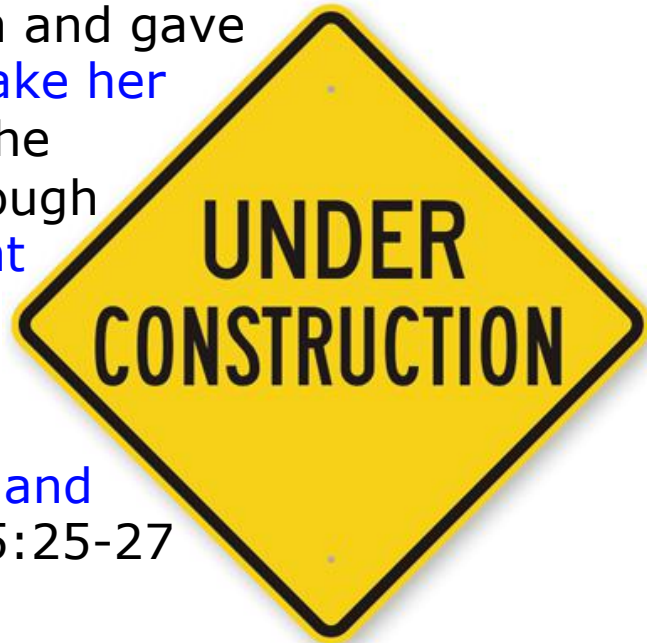
19

"And I tell you that you are Peter,
and on this rock **I will build my**
church, and the gates
of Hades will not
overcome it."
Matthew 16:18



20

"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to **make her holy, cleansing her** by the washing with water through the word, and to **present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**" Ephesians 5:25-27



21

The Big Idea

The great hope of the Church is
the **glory and presence** of our Savior **today**
and the **glory** He is making in us for **tomorrow**

22

What are we to do?

Focus on the glory of our risen Lord

- Picture Jesus Christ right now
- **We would fall at His feet as though dead!**
- Yet He is here among us and His Church

23

What are we to do?

Focus on the glory of our risen Lord

Focus on the glorious future of the Church

- "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know...the riches of **His glorious inheritance in His holy people.**"
Ephesians 1:18
- Times of suffering in all kinds of trials "have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith...**may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.**" 1 Peter 1:7

24

What are we to do?

Focus on the glory of our risen Lord

Focus on the glorious future of the Church

Overcome → Live in and for Jesus

- “Do not be **overcome** by evil, but **overcome** evil with good.” Romans 12:21
- Be earnest and repent
- Do not be afraid of suffering
- Be faithful, enduring patiently
- Get true riches from Christ
- Join the work of Christ in His Church

25

The Big Idea

The great hope of the church is the glory and presence of Christ and the glory He is making in us for tomorrow



26

When I saw Jesus, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Revelation 1:17-18

27

Revelation 1:1-3

"The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. **Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.**"

28

Questions