

..He laid His right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. (Revelation 1:17-18)

I. Our Redeemer Lives

- a. The full glory of Christ is too much for us to behold while we are here on earth. (v.17)
- b. Jesus was dead, but He presently lives. The dead do not speak, nor do they touch. Our Lord has a *living love* that actively pursues us.
- c. Christ in heaven is the same, in heart, as He was here during His earthly ministry. For He is "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."
- d. He still loves people. (Rom 8:37-39) He still prays. (Heb 7:25) He still draws men. (John 12:32)
- e. Jesus has the keys over Death and Hades. The meaning is that even if Christians die, Christ's resurrection has given Him authority over death. The dead do not have power or authority.
- f. **He lives, He lives, HE LIVES!**

II. Divine Description of Purpose

- a. The picture of Christ outlined in verses 13-16 is more of a truthful representation of Jesus Christ's *divine purposes* than it is of a physical description. (Daniel 7:13)
- b. The seven lampstands represent *churches* and Jesus is in their midst (middle; among them).
- c. This description of Jesus' divine purposes is connected to His church.
- d. ***In His right He held seven stars*** –
 1. Christ's hands are working hands that have strength to hold seven stars.
 2. In verse 20 we read *the seven stars are the angels (messengers) of the seven churches*. The messengers of the churches are often referred to as the pastors/ministers of the churches.
 3. Read and compare 2 Cor 8:23 (*apostolos*-sent with message) (*aggelos*-one sent to proclaim)
 4. The lampstands are scattered across the earth; but the stars are held together in the hand of Christ. The right hand is a place of special honor for His ministers to shine.
 5. Christ holds them, protects and empowers them. Ministers are not made by men, but by the Lord. Stars may fall from the sky, but Christ promises not to lose what He holds.
- e. ***From His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword*** – The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.
 1. It is the sword (the Gospel) that goes out of Christ's mouth that does everything in the great battle for salvation/sanctification. It is all edge. You can't handle it without cutting yourself.
 2. By ourselves, we have no power. The really powerful work is done by Christ, Himself and by Him alone! We shine and God blesses the shining, but Jesus saves.
 3. Out of Christ's mouth comes a wounding, killing and healing sword that cuts deep.
 4. If Christ's own voice (His Word) is not heard, faith cannot be revealed in our hearts.
 5. One Word out of Christ's mouth is worth fifty thousand out of the mouths of the greatest preachers who have ever lived.
- f. ***His face was like the sun shining in full strength*** – Look at the sun, and you will forget the stars.
 1. His servants are only stars, but He is the Sun! In Christ there is more light than there is in all the prophets, saints, apostles, and ministers. He is all and above all.
 2. The sun pours out its light for all the worlds. Christ pours out His light, grace and glory forever.
 3. If no one can stand against the power of the sun, who can stand against the power of Christ?
- g. One day you will see Christ as He is, face to face, in the glory of His power.

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)