**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | He Holds the Keys |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Revelation 1:1-7, 17-18 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2336 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The book of the Revelation was written to the servants of Jesus Christ.
      1. The Greek word for “servants” means “bond slaves.”
         1. A bond slave is not someone who was captured, but one who willingly submits himself to another person.
         2. The book of the Revelation was written only to His servants, or bond slaves.
            1. Only bond slaves of Jesus will understand the book.
      2. Being a slave to Jesus is good and has its privileges.
         1. The Master is responsible for the slave’s care.
         2. A servant also knows things that others do not know.
            1. A servant has intimate knowledge of the Master.
   2. The subject of the book is those things that are going to happen in the future.
      1. Revelation 1:1
         1. The word “shortly” refers to things that are rapidly going to come to pass.
         2. History at its end picks up speed.
   3. The author of the book is the apostle John.
      1. John was about ninety years of age and was on the island of Patmos.
      2. God gave John a vision and a commission to write what he saw.
   4. The publisher of the book of the Revelation is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
      1. Revelation 1:4
   5. The book of the Revelation is dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. Revelation 1:5
      2. Jesus Christ is the hero of the book.
2. THE GRACE OF OUR RISEN LORD (Revelation 1:4-6)
   1. He loves us because of His grace.
      1. Revelation 1:5
         1. A more proper translation is “loves” in the present tense.
         2. Jesus never started loving us; He has always loved us. He loves us continuously.
         3. He doesn’t love us because we are valuable; we’re valuable because He loves us.
         4. John 3:16
         5. We cannot make ourselves lovable.
            1. We cannot clean ourselves up to make us lovable.
            2. He loves us first, and then He washes us.
   2. He liberated us because of His grace.
      1. Revelation 1:5
         1. “Washed us from our sins” - some translations say “loosed us.”
            1. The Greek word can mean both “washed” and “loosed.”
         2. Jesus loves us (present tense) and has loosed us (past tense) and set us free.
            1. It has the idea of using keys to set someone free or removing pollution.
      2. The blood of Jesus is the only thing that can remove the stains, make us clean and wash us white as snow.
         1. There is no other blood like the blood of Jesus.
         2. His blood is absolutely unique.
            1. This is the reason for the virgin birth.

Without the virgin birth, there would be no salvation.

Jesus’ blood is sinless blood.

The blood that flowed through the veins of the Lord Jesus was the blood of God.

* + - * 1. Acts 20:28
      1. Hebrews 9:22
  1. He lifted us because of His grace.
     1. Revelation 1:6
        1. We are kings and priests in Jesus.
     2. Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters.
        1. Hebrews 2:11
     3. Because of Jesus, we are part of the family of God, and we can go directly to God.
        1. We do not need an intermediary.

1. THE GLORY OF OUR RISEN LORD (Revelation 1:7)
   1. The clouds spoken of in this passage are glory clouds.
      1. The shekinah glory of God.
      2. This is the outshining of God’s glory.
   2. God’s glory is often referred to as a cloud in Scripture.
      1. When Jesus ascended into Heaven, a cloud received Him.
         1. Acts 1:9
         2. Acts 1:11
            1. He went in the clouds, and He's coming back in the clouds of glory.
      2. It was the shekinah cloud that led the children of Israel through the wilderness.
         1. Exodus 13:21
   3. The Lord Jesus will be seen by those who nailed Him to the cross.
      1. The last time they saw Him, He was hanging in shame, naked upon the cross. When He comes again, He will be dressed in royal robes.
         1. Revelation 1:7
            1. His hair will be whiter than snow, speaking of His purity and holiness.
            2. His eyes will be like flames of fire seeing right through them.
            3. His feet, where once they drove the spike, will now be like molten brass going forth in judgment.
            4. The last time He came, they put a spear through His side. He is coming again in glory with a sword in His mouth.
   4. Romans 14:11
2. THE GENTLENESS OF OUR RISEN LORD (Revelation 1:17-18)
   1. When John saw Jesus, he fell at His feet as dead.
      1. John is so overwhelmed at the glory and majesty of Jesus that he collapsed.
   2. Revelation 1:17-18
      1. Jesus reaches down and touches John and comforts him.
         1. Jesus touched so many of those whom He healed while on Earth.
            1. Jesus touched and healed the leper, whom no one else would go near.

You are not untouchable; Jesus loves you.

* + 1. The outward appearance of Jesus has changed since John last saw Him; but the heart of Jesus is still the same.
  1. Jesus told John, “Fear not.”
     1. The second coming of Jesus should bring us comfort.
     2. There are three types of people in the world:
        1. Those who are afraid.
        2. Those who don’t know enough to be afraid.
        3. Those who know their Bibles.

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR RISEN LORD (Revelation 1:17-18)
   1. The keys mentioned in this passage stand for authority, possession, privilege and right.
      1. The one who has the keys is the one in control.
      2. Keys open and close; they liberate and imprison.
   2. Mankind has two great enemies:
      1. Hell
      2. Death
   3. Jesus keeps the keys of both hell and death.
      1. The word “hell” in this passage is the Greek word “hades” and the Hebrew word “Sheol.”
         1. It literally means the realm of the unseen world; the spirit world.
            1. Luke 16:19-31
            2. Luke 23:43
      2. Jesus received both of these keys by His resurrection.
   4. Isaiah 9:6
2. CONCLUSION
   1. Jesus is the keeper of the keys to hell and death, and He wants to liberate you and set you free.
      1. You have to walk past Calvary in order to go to hell.
      2. Please do not pass by Calvary.
   2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   3. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31