

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: HE HOLDS THE KEYS

SERMON REFERENCE: REVELATION 1:1-7, 17-18

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2336

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The book of the Revelation was written to the servants of Jesus Christ.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) Only bond slaves of Jesus will understand the book.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) A servant has intimate knowledge of the Master.
- b) The subject of the book is those things that are going to happen in the future.
 - i) 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.
- c) The author of the book is the apostle John.
 - i) John was about ninety years of age and was on the island of Patmos.
 - ii) God gave John a vision and a commission to write what he saw.
- d) The publisher of the book of the Revelation is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
 - i) Revelation 1:4
- e) The book of the Revelation is dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) Revelation 1:5
 - ii) Jesus Christ is the hero of the book.

2) THE GRACE OF OUR RISEN LORD (Revelation 1:4-6)

- a) He loves us because of His grace.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) We cannot clean ourselves up to make us lovable.
 - (b) He loves us first, and then He washes us.
- b) He liberated us because of His grace.
 - i) Revelation 1:5
 - (1) “Washed us from our sins” - some translations say “loosed us.”
 - (a) 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.
 - (a) It has the idea of using keys to set someone free or removing pollution.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) This is the reason for the virgin birth.

- (i) Without the virgin birth, there would be no salvation.
 - (ii) Jesus' blood is sinless blood.
 - (iii) The blood that flowed through the veins of the Lord Jesus was the blood of God.
 - (b) Acts 20:28
 - (3) Hebrews 9:22
 - c) He lifted us because of His grace.
 - i) Revelation 1:6
 - (1) We are kings and priests in Jesus.
 - ii) Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters.
 - (1) Hebrews 2:11
 - iii) 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.
- 3) THE GLORY OF OUR RISEN LORD (Revelation 1:7)
- a) The clouds spoken of in this passage are glory clouds.
 - i) The shekinah glory of God.
 - ii) This is the outshining of God's glory.
 - b) God's glory is often referred to as a cloud in Scripture.
 - i) When Jesus ascended into Heaven, a cloud received Him.
 - (1) Acts 1:9
 - (2) Acts 1:11
 - (a) He went in the clouds, and He's coming back in the clouds of glory.
 - ii) It was the shekinah cloud that led the children of Israel through the wilderness.
 - (1) Exodus 13:21
 - c) The Lord Jesus will be seen by those who nailed Him to the cross.
 - i) 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
 - (a) His hair will be whiter than snow, speaking of His purity and holiness.
 - (b) His eyes will be like flames of fire seeing right through them.
 - (c) His feet, where once they drove the spike, will now be like molten brass going forth in judgment.
 - (d) The last time He came, they put a spear through His side. He is coming again in glory with a sword in His mouth.
 - d) Romans 14:11
- 4) THE GENTLENESS OF OUR RISEN LORD (Revelation 1:17-18)
- a) When John saw Jesus, he fell at His feet as dead.
 - i) John is so overwhelmed at the glory and majesty of Jesus that he collapsed.
 - b) Revelation 1:17-18
 - i) Jesus reaches down and touches John and comforts him.
 - (1) Jesus touched so many of those whom He healed while on Earth.
 - (a) Jesus touched and healed the leper, whom no one else would go near.
 - (i) You are not untouchable; Jesus loves you.

- ii) The outward appearance of Jesus has changed since John last saw Him; but the heart of Jesus is still the same.
 - c) Jesus told John, "Fear not."
 - i) The second coming of Jesus should bring us comfort.
 - ii) 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.
- 5) THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR RISEN LORD (Revelation 1:17-18)
- a) The keys mentioned in this passage stand for authority, possession, privilege and right.
 - i) The one who has the keys is the one in control.
 - ii) Keys open and close; they liberate and imprison.
 - b) Mankind has two great enemies:
 - i) Hell
 - ii) Death
 - c) Jesus keeps the keys of both hell and death.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) Luke 16:19-31
 - (b) Luke 23:43
 - ii) Jesus received both of these keys by His resurrection.
 - d) Isaiah 9:6
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) Jesus is the keeper of the keys to hell and death, and He wants to liberate you and set you free.
 - i) You have to walk past Calvary in order to go to hell.
 - ii) Please do not pass by Calvary.
 - b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - c) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31