

## “Our Dependant Independence!”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Watching a baby who has just learned to walk is fun. He (or she) toddles precariously around absolutely thrilled about his newfound independence. Notice also that the child will run away and explore awhile, then run back to Mom or Dad and make sure they are there. The baby is independent and dependant simultaneously.

One of the joyous things about what Jesus did for us, is that by his death and resurrection he freed us from sin. He gave us this independence—this freedom.

<sup>17</sup>... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. <sup>2 Cor. 3:17-18 (NIV)</sup>

Another thing Jesus gave us by his sacrifice was the ability to have a relationship with God. This was the crux of God's whole plan. Jesus died and rose again to be the sacrifice for our sins so mankind could again have a relationship with God. Everything was now ready for those who accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord to not only have independence (freedom)

Notes:

[a]  
Matt.  
5:45

from sin, but have a relationship with God which includes trusting dependence. Really everyone, Believer and non-believer, is dependant on God.<sup>[a]</sup> He is everyone's source, but the Believer can relax in that and relish that the Heavenly Father loves them, and is interested in their well-being.

<sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. <sup>4</sup> Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. <sup>Psalms 37:3-4 (NIV)</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. <sup>Prov. 3:5-6 (NIV)</sup>

Trust in the Lord and walk not only in the freedom from sin that he has given us, but in trusting dependence because he provides for us.

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# Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

## “The Testimony of Jesus Christ” (Teaching Sketch)

Revelation 1:1-20



John, the apostle, the revelator, the prophet in the Book of the Revelation<sup>[1]</sup> testifies through the written word the testimony of what he learned through the angel of the Lord.

### The Most Ignored Book

The Revelation of John is perhaps the most ignored of all scripture.

Many people, believers and non-believers alike, often make the claim these writings are simply too difficult for all but a few to understand. It would seem a well versed enemy such as Satan would be very pleased with this view of The Revelation.

The Apostle John is writing this book as a witness. A witness is someone who can testify to a matter because they possess first hand knowledge concerning something they personally saw or heard. The witness, in short, was a part of, or observed, the subject matter.

Notes:  
[1] apokalup-sis  
*ap-ok-al'-oop-sis*  
*dis-clo-sure*:—  
appear-ing, com-ing, lighten, manifes-tation, be revealed, revela-tion.

[2] Church at Laodicea  
Rev.3:14-22

### Seven Churches

The Book of Revelation is addressed to seven churches in Asia. The book would, however, be circulated to all the churches in Asia and beyond because it was from John, the last surviving of the original apostles. While it is written to these specific seven churches it carries weight of prophesy far beyond the seven congregations of believers mentioned. The seven churches do in fact represent seven ages of the church that will become prevalent during successive ages to come. The final church age being the Laodicean Church Age, which is the current church age. The church at Laodicea<sup>[2]</sup> was a lukewarm congregation in nature. This attitude was responded to by God saying because they were neither hot nor cold he would spew them out of his mouth. <sup>Rev. 3:16</sup> Harsh words from the mouth of the one who created all things with words from his mouth.

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

## Scripture:

### Revelation 1:1-20 (NIV)

#### Prologue

<sup>1</sup>The revelation of 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, <sup>2</sup>who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>Blessed is the one who reads 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.

#### Greetings and doxology

<sup>4</sup>John,  
To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits<sup>[a]</sup> before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look, he is coming with the clouds,  
and every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

<sup>8</sup>"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

#### One like a Son of Man

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom

#### Notes:

[a]  
Or the seven-fold Spirit

[b]  
Daniel 7:13

[c]  
Or messengers

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. <sup>10</sup>On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup>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.**"

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

<sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.**"

<sup>19</sup>"**Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.**" <sup>20</sup>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<sup>[c]</sup> of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

## "The Testimony of Jesus Christ" (Teaching Sketch)

Revelation 1:1-20

### Seven Lamps & Angles

John is faithful to what every believer is to do, be a witness to what they have experienced first hand from the Lord.

It makes perfect sense that the seven churches (congregations) would have been referred to as lampstands since Jesus is the light of the world and light vanquishes darkness. Jesus, himself, said during his earthly ministry not to hide our light but hold it up so all could see.

We read also each church had an angel assigned to it. The angels were represented as stars in the hand of Christ. Praise the Lord! How wonderful, how marvelous that each church should have an angel from the hand of the Lord himself to watch over it. This fact should make every congregation of believers all the more thankful for the many layers of the Lord's provision, and reluctant to be lukewarm!

It is little wonder John said there was a blessing to "all who hear and take to heart the Book of The Revelation."<sup>Rev. 1:3</sup>

### Just so you'll know:

**Our service is informal.** We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
  - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
  - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

