Seven Churches of Asia Minor

Church of Ephesus – **Rev. 2:1-7**
Church of Smyrna – **Rev. 2:8-11**
Church of Pergamos – **Rev. 2:12-17**
Church of Thyatira – **Rev. 2:18-29**
Church of Sardis – **Rev. 3:1-6**
Church of Philadelphia – **Rev. 3: 7-13**
Church of Laodicea – **Rev. 3:14-21**

Outline of Revelation

Look at Revelation 3:14 – "And to the messenger of the Church in Laodicea write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the chief ruler of the creation of God." (**Literal Translation with Greek**)

Exegesis:

GRAPSO (AAImp 2nd p.s. of GRAPHO)

TADE LEGEI – These things says

HO AMEN – The Amen, the Beginning and the End.

HO MARTUS – The Martyr, Witness

HO PISTOS KAI ALETHINOS – The Faithful and True (Witness)

HE ARCHE TES KTISEOS TOU THEOU – The Chief Ruler of the Creation of God

Read **Revelation 3:14-22**. In this passage our Lord presents Laodicea as a disgusting church; it is a church that He warns to procure His own richness, because they are spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

II Corinthians 8:9 – Three major concepts:

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

- BEING RICH
- BECAME POOR
- THAT YOU MIGHT BE RICH
I. BEING RICH

1. His Wealth was infinite – possessor of heaven and earth. John 1:3 – "All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made"; also, Colossians 1:16

2. Rich because as the Son of the eternal Father, He was heir of all things (Colossians 1:15 – "... the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.")

3. Rich because of a prior claim: "The gold is mine, and the silver, and the cattle on a thousand hills". He thrust a million worlds out into infinite space.

4. Rich in glory. All the hosts of heaven worshipped and sang before Him praises.

5. Rich in power and authority (He is the Alpha and Omega).

II. BECAME POOR (IMPOVERISHED HIMSELF)

1. Consider those words: Disrobed Himself of GLORY – covered Himself with the flesh of our humanity.

2. Became poor in every sense of the word. Go with me to that home in which he was born among the poorest in Galilee: not a bed to rest on, but instead a stable made for the animals, laid in a manger, reared in a poor community, the despised city of Nazareth.

3. Poor all the days of his earthly ministry, "...the foxes have holes, and the fowls of he air have their nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head" – Matthew 8:20.

4. His disciples were also poor. See them wander through the fields, plucking ears of corn for sustenance.

5. The rich of his day had little to do with Him. Accused, he faced the fact that no one seemed to care; He was a poor, bedraggled, lonely, unwelcome and unwanted man, forsaken. When he died he was placed in another man’s grave.

6. We cannot imagine his agony – both physically and spiritually.

7. In the garden of Gethsemane, alone in agony, He sweated "as it were great drops of blood." (Luke 22:44) And on the cross, in Matthew 27:46, He said "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

8. 700 years before, the Prophet Isaiah beheld His great poverty: "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; He was despised; and we esteemed him not, Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows..." – Isaiah 53:3, 4
III. THAT WE MIGHT BE RICH

1. Why did he choose to become poor? Paul said it beautifully: "He became poor, that through his poverty we might be rich." It is GRACE all the way. His humiliation, poverty, physically and spiritually were all for us.

2. He laid aside His glory, in order that we might enter therein.

3. He gave up all, that we might receive all.

4. He became friendless, that He might show Himself a friend to sinners.

5. He walked a lonely path in order that we might find the road to righteousness.

6. He was willing that all men forsake Him, that we might have fellowship with Him.

7. He walked up Golgotha’s brow, that we might tread the streets of gold.

8. He wore a crown of thorns, that we might wear a crown of glory.

9. He wore a purple robe, that we might be clothed with the robe of spotless purity.

10. He entered into death, so that we might enter into life.

11. He was placed in the grave and came forth victoriously, that we might know the glory of a resurrected life.

12. "He was made sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

13. In II Corinthians 8:9, the phrase, "for your sakes" spells the secret of His tremendous love and Grace. Romans 5:8 – "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
The Essence of God

All three Members of the Godhead share all the same attributes – Sovereignty, Righteousness, Justice, Love, Eternal Life, Omniscience, Omnipresence, Omnipotence, Immutability, and Veracity.

Celebrating Christ – The Trinity

The Trinity speaks of the union of three persons in the Godhead: Deity 1 – the Father, Deity 2 – the Son, and Deity 3 – the Holy Spirit. There are multiple examples of occurrences of the number 3 in the Bible. For 12 such examples, Please click the link, or note the posted doctrine under the same title “Celebrating Christ – The Trinity” from our website under Topical Studies - C.