

## **Going Deeper Study Guide**

### **The Seven Churches in Revelation – Introduction**

#### **Revelation 1:4–20**

##### **Main Theme**

Jesus Christ is not distant from His church. He is presently reigning, walking among His people, purifying His bride, strengthening His church, and calling believers to faithful endurance.

“Christ is present.”

##### **Key Passage- Revelation 1:12–13**

“Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man...”

##### **Sermon Summary**

This week we began a new series through the seven churches in Revelation. Before examining the individual churches, Revelation 1 reminds us who stands at the center of the entire book: Jesus Christ Himself.

John writes as a brother and partner in suffering to churches facing hardship, temptation, compromise, and persecution. Yet before correction ever comes, the churches are reminded that Christ is in their midst.

He is not absent.

He is not unaware.

He is not distant.

The glorified Christ walks among His churches with authority, holiness, power, and care.

The message challenged believers not to become spiritually sleepy or complacent. While salvation is fully accomplished by Christ alone,

Christians are still called to faithful obedience, worship, endurance, repentance, and service.

Revelation is not primarily about decoding timelines. It is about beholding Christ.

## **Sermon Outline**

### **1. We Are One in Christ**

#### **Revelation 1:9–11**

John refers to himself as a “brother and partner” in suffering.

Believers are united:

- In Christ
- In worship
- In suffering
- In service
- In endurance

Christianity was never promised to be easy. Faithfulness to Christ often brings hardship because the gospel confronts the pride and rebellion of the world.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Romans 8:17
- Philippians 1:29
- Matthew 16:24
- 2 Timothy 3:12
- 1 Peter 4:12–13

#### **Reflection Questions**

- Do I expect comfort more than faithfulness?
- How does suffering reveal where my hope truly rests?
- Am I serving Christ faithfully even in difficult seasons?

### **2. Christ Is Present With His Church**

## **Revelation 1:12–18**

John sees Christ standing among the lampstands — the churches.

This is the heartbeat of the passage:  
Jesus is actively present with His people.

Christ sees:

- Faithfulness
- Sin
- Perseverance
- Compromise
- Worship
- Coldness
- Love
- Endurance

Nothing in the church escapes His sight.

The imagery describing Jesus reveals:

- His holiness
- His authority
- His eternal nature
- His power over death
- His glory beyond description

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 28:20
- Colossians 1:15–20
- Hebrews 4:13
- Daniel 7:13–14
- Ephesians 5:25–27

### **Reflection Questions**

- Do I live as though Christ truly sees my life and worship?
- What areas of spiritual complacency need repentance?
- Is Christ truly central in my daily life and worship?

## **3. The Church Must Remain Awake**

## **Revelation 1:19–20**

The church must not drift into spiritual sleepiness.

A church may:

- Grow comfortable
- Lose zeal
- Tolerate compromise
- Neglect holiness
- Become distracted

But Christ lovingly corrects His church because He desires a purified bride.

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Proverbs 6:10–11
- Romans 13:11–14
- Hebrews 12:1–2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:5–8

### **Reflection Questions**

- Where am I tempted toward spiritual complacency?
- What habits help keep my heart awake and watchful?
- How can I pursue greater faithfulness this week?

### **Key Truths From the Message**

- Revelation is about Jesus Christ.
- Christ alone accomplished salvation.
- The church belongs to Christ.
- Christians are called to endurance.
- Suffering is not evidence of God's absence.
- Christ is present with His people.
- The church should reflect Christ — not the world.

### **Important Word Study**

#### **“Lampstands” — Revelation 1:20**

The lampstands represent the churches.

Lampstands exist to:

- Hold forth light
- Display truth
- Shine in darkness

The church does not create the light.

Christ is the light.

The church simply bears witness to Him.

### **Cross References**

- Matthew 5:14–16
- Philippians 2:14–16
- John 8:12

### **Family Worship Guide**

#### **Family Reading**

Read together:

- Revelation 1:9–20
- Daniel 7:13–14

### **Family Discussion Questions**

#### **For Younger Children**

- Who did John see in the vision?
- Where was Jesus standing?
- What do the lampstands represent?
- Why should we not be afraid if we belong to Jesus?

#### **For Older Children & Teens**

- Why is it important that Jesus is present with His church?
- What does faithful endurance look like today?
- How can Christians become spiritually sleepy?
- What does it mean to keep Christ at the center of our lives?

#### **For the Whole Family**

- What helps our family focus on Christ during busy seasons?

- How can we encourage one another toward faithful worship and obedience?
- What is one practical way we can “shine the light” this week?

## **Family Activity Idea**

### **“Light in the Darkness”**

Turn off the lights in a room and light a candle or flashlight.

Talk together about:

- How light stands out in darkness
- How Jesus is the Light of the World
- How Christians are called to reflect His light

Read Matthew 5:14–16 together.

Pray that your family would shine brightly for Christ.

## **Prayer Prompts**

Pray:

- For faithful endurance
- For spiritual alertness
- For holiness in the church
- For love for Christ to increase
- For courage during suffering
- For Christ to be central in your home and church

## **Closing Encouragement**

The hope of Revelation is not merely that Jesus is coming someday.

The hope of Revelation is that Jesus reigns now, walks among His people now, and faithfully keeps His church now.

So behold your King.

Worship Him.

Trust Him.

Follow Him.

And remain awake.