

## I. THE LAST MENTION OF CHURCHES

- A. At the end of vs. 21, God ceases to write His Word to mankind (2000+ years)
  - 1. This is the last of the prophetic Scriptures
    - a. This book is FINISHED – Plenary – full, entire, complete
    - b. This book is TRUE – Inerrant – cannot err, exempt from mistake
    - c. This book is RIGHT – Infallible – cannot fail, correct in every aspect
    - d. This book is PERFECT – Sufficient – Satisfying, fulfills every need
  - 2. Our need is to read it – not criticize, not doubt, not argue
    - a. Too many people read books ABOUT the Bible
    - b. This is our primary text, to be read and studied every day
    - c. Write it upon the fleshly tables of your
  - 3. We must cherish the Words of this book!
    - a. PSA. 12:6 – “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”
    - b. ROM. 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
    - c. PSA. 119:114 – “Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.”
- B. Even in this last verse, Jesus explains the nature of a church (vs. 16)
  - 1. Plural – speaking to real churches not an institutional concept
    - a. See it also in REV. 1:11, 19-20 – He is not speaking “universally”
    - b. A church is by definition local and visible (called out assembly)
    - c. A church is by nature made up of qualified materials well-placed
    - d. Metaphors are Body, Building, and Bride (more than one exist)
  - 2. This is important because it means US here today!
    - a. EPH. 3:21 – “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”
    - b. This is God’s divine institution on earth today – the ONLY kind!
    - c. We must love and be loyal to our church (i.e., one another)
  - 3. Another thing about correct understanding of the word “church”
    - a. If there is no “universal church” (and there isn’t)
    - b. Then “replacement theology” goes out the window too
    - c. God’s people are STILL God’s people (Israel)
    - d. And this church (among many others) is STILL the Lord’s Church
- C. Jesus signs His letter here – Gives His credentials. This is a legal assertion
  - 1. Many letters and messages are signed throughout the New Testament
    - a. 2 THESS. 3:17 – “The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.”

- b. GAL. 6:11 – “Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.”
- c. Many have messages from the others who were with Paul
- d. “Tell them hello from me! Tell them I’m praying for them!”
- 2. Jesus makes an assertion – means “the maintaining of a claim.”
  - a. The ROOT and OFFSPRING (vs. 16)
  - b. The source and the product?
  - c. JOHN 8:58 – “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”
- 3. This is His last message to His churches and all of His Creation
  - a. It is a last testimony, a last promise, a last prayer
  - b. And most importantly, one last invitation

## II. THE LAST TESTIMONY

- A. We must not tamper with the Word of God to ADD to it (vs. 18)
  - 1. There is a penalty assigned to doing so – the PLAGUES
  - 2. We see many examples!
    - a. Eve added to God’s Word and we are all plagued by sin
    - b. The Pharisees so added that Christ condemned them SOUNDLY
    - c. MATT. 23:4 – “For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”
  - 3. It is OKAY to compare things with the Bible! It’s expected!
  - 4. But not more! Bells don’t cause angels to get their wings!
- B. We must not tamper with the Word of God to SUBTRACT from it (vs. 19)
  - 1. In court, tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth
    - a. Good advice for Preachers! Good advice for us all!
    - b. Give out the Gospel! Don’t opine, give them the TRUTH!
    - c. And don’t give them less...
  - 2. It is a frightening thing, isn’t it?
  - 3. Does it sound as though it speaks against Eternal Security?
    - a. Can anyone who is Saved truly deny the Word of God?
    - b. Even if they get bitter and speak out, it doesn’t change facts
    - c. But someone who would take away God’s Word can’t get Saved
    - d. Since they obviously do not believe it!
- C. We are to READ it and BELIEVE it and DECLARE the Word of God!
  - 1. JUDE 3 – “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
  - 2. This is THE ONLY divinely inspired book ever written

### III. THE LAST PROMISE

- A. Jesus ASSERTS His Coming is SURE (vs. 7)
  - 1. That means certain, there is and can be no question
  - 2. He even repeats it (vs. 20)
  - 3. ACTS 1:9-11 – “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (10) And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; (11) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”
- B. Jesus ASSERTS His Coming is Singular (vs. 12)
  - 1. It won't happen over and over
  - 2. It is singular and therefore SPECIAL – He is coming PERSONALLY
  - 3. He will give every man reward according as his work shall be
  - 4. 1 THESS. 4:16 – “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:”
- C. Jesus ASSERTS His Coming is SOON (vs. 20)
  - 1. He is coming QUICKLY – He won't be sidetracked or delayed
  - 2. MATT. 24:36-37 – “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. (37) But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”
  - 3. Look at what was going on: MATT. 24:38 – “For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,”

### IV. THE LAST PRAYER

- A. John makes a final prayer (vs. 21)
  - 1. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
  - 2. John is praying for every reader to be saved by grace
  - 3. John is praying for every believer to LIVE in grace
  - 4. Amen – “so be it.” A solemn ratification or a hearty approval
- B. To that he adds (vs. 20) a plea that the Lord come back soon!
  - 1. Think about John exiled, being in His presence on Earth
  - 2. Now a brief return to His presence again for a short while
  - 3. How stark must the Isle of Patmos felt afterwards?
    - a. You can hear it in his voice if you listen
    - b. Quickly? Even so! Please! COME BACK! Lord Jesus
- C. We should so long to be with our Lord too, Christian
  - 1. John looked for Jesus on the Isle of Patmos
  - 2. Paul looked for Him while in the Roman Prison

3. We should look for Him every day!

## V. THE LAST INVITATION

- A. The word "COME" means the Lost Person is NOT where they are supposed to be
  1. In other words, you won't be "alright" if you do nothing
  2. If you don't come to Him, you will die and go to Hell WITHOUT Him
  3. But it's an open invitation! It's a FREE invitation!
- B. The Holy Spirit of God says "COME" (vs. 17)
  1. JOHN 6:44 – "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."
  2. The Holy Spirit may even now be at work in your heart
  3. He TESTIFIES to you that God's Word is true
  4. He draws you to Jesus
- C. The Bride of Christ says "COME" (vs. 17)
  1. Churches are the Bride of Christ
  2. This church earnestly desires Salvation for you – that's our Mission
  3. MARK 16:15 – "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."
  4. The Gospel is the "Good News" that you can be Saved!
- D. Him that heareth says "COME" (vs. 17)
  1. All the saved people echo the plea – Be Saved!
  2. You have no idea the peace and the blessing you are missing
  3. Salvation is to WHOSOEVER WILL
    - a. Salvation is FREELY given to the undeserving!
    - b. Salvation is for SINNERS only!
    - c. Salvation is ONLY of the LORD!
- E. Be Saved today!