

THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS: HE IS NEAR US AND KNOWS US

Iglesia Houses of Light Church • December 11-12, 2021 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Rev. 2:1b-2

"These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance..."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. During these weeks, we have been focusing our teachings on the supremacy of Christ to know Him more and learn to respond to Him as He is worthy both in the church, as in the family and on a personal level.
- B. This time we are going to talk about the characteristics of Jesus described in the first chapters of Revelation that the Father left us, **which enable us to confront the challenges we are experiencing**. Each description is significant and is a clue we must dig into using the rest of the Bible to get a broader picture of what the Spirit is emphasizing about Jesus.
- C. Each trait of his personality communicates a specific aspect that equips us to overcome compromise, endure persecution, commit and partner as the events surrounding the return of Jesus intensify.

Rev. 1:1 **"The revelation from 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."**

- D. Jesus gave us these insights into His heart and ministry to give us direction as to how we approach Him, pray, prophesy, and serve Him for the greatest release of His glory before His return. With these perspectives, we will live in a spirit filled with boldness, tenderness, and confidence, rather than rudeness and fear. We gain hope, courage, and comfort from meeting Jesus.
- E. In each of Jesus' letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation, He begins with an attribute of Himself that refers to what he is about to praise or correct.
- F. We should not think that we need an amazing revelation to know Christ in a deeper way or that it is something very difficult and distant for the average Christian; rather, revelation is available to all who yearn for it.

Rom. 10:6b-8 **"Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim..."**

II. JESUS KNOWS US AND IS CLOSE (Rev. 2:1-7)

Rev. 2:2-3 **"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim**

to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

- A. **Jesus wants to communicate these attributes of His person specifically to the church in Ephesus and also to us (Rev. 2: 7) because He wants us to know that He is deeply interested and intrinsically involved in what happens day to day in the church.** Jesus tells the leader of this church that he is aware of everything that is happening.
- B. **He knows very well what happens because He walks around and in the middle of the church.** He is seeing the labor, the hard work, the sacrifices of love, and even a glass of cold water given in his name. He is in the middle of children's classes, counseling, administrative offices, and Friendship Groups. He walks among us and says: "If you know that I am not forgetting every little labor of love that you do in My name?"
- C. **He also sees the struggles, and the areas in which we need to overcome and is not afraid to tell us what they are, but is so abundantly generous that He gives us rewards when we overcome, because He wants us to know how much it means to Him that we fight against those things that hinder love toward Him in our lives.**
- D. **Jesus has the authority and the wisdom to speak to our lives not only because He is the Son of God but because He is the "Faithful Witness" (Rev. 1:5) which means that He tells the truth about God, about man, Israel, culture, recent times, everything. Jesus embodied the truth in his life and courageously spoke it from a place of loyal love to his Father**
- E. **Jesus was the faithful witness in his earthly ministry.** He revealed the truth and stood firm for her, undaunted by what he implied. **Jesus did not hold back the negative** (the reproofs of judgment) **nor exaggerate the positive** (affirmations or promises). He never spoke simply to look good, please or manipulate the man. Although people did not like it or were offended He was truthful and **we want to receive the truth about ourselves and what we do and we also want to be like Him.**

III. JESUS GIVES US THE SOLUTION

Rev. 2:4-5 "Yet I hold this against you: *You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.*"

- A. **The closeness of Jesus, His omniscience and being the "Faithful Witness" allow Him to see not only what is happening inside but also the remedy to fix what is out of order, as well as the warning if we do not correct it.** Being known deeply may not be something we like but it is essential if we are to truly honor and host Him as He deserves in our church and family to see His manifestation like never before.
- B. **Jesus can perfectly discern the virtues of the failures;** He knew perfectly well what the church leaders did, his hard work, his intolerance of the wicked,

and his discernment; And since they had not been discouraged in the midst of difficulties (**Rev. 2:2-3**), yet Jesus goes to the crucial point, they had abandoned his first love (**Rev. 2:4**).

- C. In our current culture we could have said about this church: "These brothers from Ephesus are incredible, look at what they do, wow, amazing!" **But Jesus is not emotionalist, His love is uncompromising.** Jesus tells them: "Although I can see that you are doing all these positive things, I also see that you are losing sight of the most important thing, you no longer love me as before and they cannot continue like this."
- D. When Jesus says to them: ***"Consider how far you have fallen!"*** He is talking about the place where they were as the apostle Paul told them ***"sitting with Christ in heavenly places"*** (Eph. 2:6) and that they had not even realized that they had fallen. **We can be in our religious activity without realizing that we have moved away so we must stop and remember where we were to return to that place of intimacy with Christ.**
- E. Many of us may think that it is okay to carry Christianity in our own way, on our terms and tastes, **but we need to know that Jesus perceives what we do and feels it ...**

Mal. 1:12-13a "But you profane it by saying, 'The Lord's table is defiled,' and, 'Its food is contemptible.' 13 And you say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the Lord Almighty..."

- F. If we really want to honor Him and respond well to His love, we need to repent and do things God's way and with the heart that we did at the beginning (Rev. 2:5), otherwise the consequence is to dry up like the branch that does not bear fruit.

Jn. 15:2 "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful."

- G. Jesus promises that if we overcome this Christianity in our own way He will give us to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God (Rev. 2:7); I consider this to be a future reward but it has a present dimension; when we abide in Christ the life of God flows in us and we can stay alive and bear the fruit that He expects of us.

Jn. 15:5b "...If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. **The closeness and involvement of Jesus expressed to the church of Ephesus should be an incentive for us because He not only knows us but is aware to correct us with His love and clear direction;** It would be sad to be working for a God who is disconnected from us, He watches closely and if necessary, correct in time what is deviating.

- B. In both church and home, if we want to grow as hosts of his presence we must and see His palpable manifestation of Him we need to consider how He feels and how he wants things done. I have always said that: *"The good is the enemy of the best"* we can do things as we see fit and think that it is fine but that conformist feeling is the hindrance to get to the point where we do things His way and treat it with dignity that He deserves.

Dut. 12:8 "Your pattern of worship will change. Today all of you are doing as you please."

- C. When we meet we must ask ourselves how did He feel? Were things done His way, how He likes them? In our home we can also ask Him how He feels about our conversations, relationships, entertainment, etc. We love and long for His glorious and restorative presence in our community and family.

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do you think it will benefit you to recognize and deepen the descriptions of Jesus described in Rev. 1-3?
2. How does knowing that Jesus is near and clearly perceives everything you do make you feel? Explain.
3. What aspects of your life in your home do you think need to align with the standard that Jesus set to host His presence as He deserves?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Our special Christmas service will take place on Friday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. The whole family is invited.
2. On Saturday December 25 and January 1 there will have no services but on Sunday December 26 and January 2 we have our two regular services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
3. Our last youth service of the year 'Open Mic Night' will be this Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the poems, songs and powerful testimonies of our young people.
4. All are invited to the 21 consecration days of 2022; beginning with the week of sanctification from Monday, January 3 to 7, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. You can now pre-order your devotionals for children, teens and adults at the bookstore.