

## Revelations Series

Message by Dr. M. Holloway

Outline/Power Point by Pastor Gangwer

### Marks of a great church

**Intro:** When we see greatness we may feel we can't attain to any degree of greatness. We see other Christians pastoring large churches, haven written books, or are great orators. We think to ourselves that it takes a great person to accomplish these things and usually our idea of greatness equals big!

The churches we are looking at are seven real churches in Asia Minor which can also represent,

1. Seven types of Believers in any given church age or church.
2. Seven types of churches in any given church age.
3. Seven types of churches that will exist when Jesus returns.

As we look at these seven churches, we will have to decide what kind of Christian we want to be and what kind of church we want to be and continue to be. We will be looking at six things that mark the greatness of a Christian and or the greatness of God's churches.

**Each point will be prefaced with the phrase, 'It was a great church'.**

#### I. Because of its \_\_\_\_\_ – (Angel) – Revelation 2:1.

- A. We can't bring something \_\_\_\_\_ out of something bad, but God can – Genesis 50:20 & Romans 5:21-6:2.
- B. The source of anything is \_\_\_\_\_ as the beginning of something is important to the nature of its success.
- C. The seven stars are the seven angels or messengers,
  1. These are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the seven churches of whom it should be obvious they are God called.
  2. Called by God to serve God and lead the church to not only serve God but to follow God.
  3. We must also recognize that Jesus Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ and its leader – Matthew 16:13-19.
  4. The 'rock' of which Christ spoke was Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ of who Christ is.
- D. Anyone can start a church and many have for a number of reasons not \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  1. Sometimes it is a disgruntled church member who didn't get his or her way.
  2. Sometimes it is a church split over its programs,
    - a. The music in which the split is over contemporary versus traditional.
    - b. The worldliness that has been creeping in and influencing its direction.
  3. Some choose a church because of its programs, its closeness to home.
  4. Some choose a church because it doesn't make them \_\_\_\_\_ about their worldly lifestyles.
  5. Seldom is the first consideration about its biblical preaching or commitment to God.
- E. This church of Ephesus was started by the Apostle Paul & Barnabus who labored there for several years.
  1. He was commissioned by the church of \_\_\_\_\_ to go to the city of Ephesus. (Acts 11)
  2. He was led of the Holy Spirit to \_\_\_\_\_ out his life into their lives and it was a great beginning
  3. Not all churches are fortunate to have an instrument of the Lord such as Paul.

- E. There are many churches that are not started by the Holy Spirit of God & therefore not led by Him.
1. Churches begun from splits are usually the result of \_\_\_\_\_ hearts.
  2. Only \_\_\_\_\_ has the authority to start and build a church.
    - a. God will via the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ a man and his family to start & build a church.
    - b. The Holy Spirit of God leads them to the \_\_\_\_\_ where God wants a church to be birthed.
    - c. Our coming to Vermont was the result of intersecting lines only God could have worked.
- F. One must obviously become a Christian in the biblical definition of a Christian before they can become a \_\_\_\_\_ Christian, so as this applies to us individually, we must be born-again to have the right beginning if we are to attain to greatness with God. (John 3:3)

## II. Because of its \_\_\_\_\_ – (Works) – Revelation 2:2

- A. The word works here has to do with a person's \_\_\_\_\_ or what they do for a living.
1. So the idea here was more than about what they did as a church, but as \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. They brought their work ethic into the church and had a mind to work/serve the Lord.
  3. There is a strong connection in \_\_\_\_\_ of the home and the church.
  4. Those who are disgruntled in the work place are usually the ones disgruntled in church.
  5. A job is just that, it is a job and we can walk away from a job without \_\_\_\_\_.
  6. A career on the other hand is something we usually love and work hard at.
  7. And so ought we to love serving in the local church serving God. **(I Corinthians 16:15) (Addicted)**
- B. The local Christ-centered church is where \_\_\_\_\_ things can take place regardless of its size,
1. It teaches moms and dads how to be great, godly parents.
  2. It is a place that can mend broken lives, broken marriages and families.
  3. It is a place where we learn how to control and combat our flesh.
  4. It is a place where God through the Holy Spirit and His Word prepares us for heaven.
  5. One day we'll leave our \_\_\_\_\_ behind, but our church life will follow us into eternity.
  6. Lives are transformed when our church is anchored in the person of Christ & God's Word.
- C. All of this is big league stuff, events of greatness whether it is ushering, teaching, singing, cleaning; these are not insignificant things, they are part of our spiritual career and having a great attitude as we do these things and others for the cause of Christ. (I Corinthians 15:58 & I Thessalonians 3:5)
- D. As to us individually, for \_\_\_\_\_ in the faith, it is about having a great attitude that spills over into our Church life. (I Thessalonians 5:15 – 26) (The Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-12)

## III. Because of its willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ – (Labor) – Revelation 2:2.

- A. The idea of Labour here has to do with \_\_\_\_\_, labour that is not easy, or meets with resistance.
- B. We can liken this to someone who has a hard day at work, but they push themselves to get to church.
1. They are not easily stopped as they want to be in their place, why? Because it calls for sacrifice!
  2. Sacrifice is a mark of greatness with God. (John 15:13)
  3. The measure of a man is not how much it takes to stop him, rather, how little it takes to stop him.
- C. These folks initially wore themselves out (I Cor. 16:15) – they were hooked on serving Jesus.
1. It didn't matter what needed to be done, they were bent on seeing it get done.
  2. They had become addicted to the ministry of the Saints; it is the character of individual greatness that combined with others of the same mind set, makes for a great church.. **(Nehemiah 4:6)**