

John's Greeting to the Churches

Revelation as Divine Communication

- The Subject of Divine Communication
 - It Describes Jesus' Nature and Glory
 - It Describes Jesus' Work
 - It Describes Jesus' Kingdom
- The Method of Divine Communication
 - This Revelation is given in 5 Steps
 - Father
 - Son
 - Angel
 - John
 - 7 Churches
 - John (an Apostle) bears witness to what he received
 - He received the revelation through the "testimony of Jesus Christ"
 - He received the revelation through "seeing"
 - John's Reception of the Revelation is Similar to the Prophet's reception of their prophecies
- The Blessing of Divine Communication
 - There is blessing if it is Read
 - There is a blessing if it is Heard
 - There is a blessing if it is Heeded

The Greeting to the Seven Churches

- The Triune Source of Grace and Peace
 - Grace and Peace are continual factors in the Christian's life
 - There can be no peace without grace.
 - When there is grace, peace is capable in the most difficult circumstances
 - Grace and Peace are Provided by every Member of the Trinity
 - They come from the Sovereign Father
 - They come from the Perfect Spirit
 - Odd statement about the "Seven Spirits who are before His throne"
 - This probably refers to the "seven titles of the Spirit" found in Isaiah 11:2
 - Refers to a 7-fold perfection of Graces the Spirit has upon Christ
 - The ministry of the Spirit is always given in relation to the Work of Christ
 - The point being driven home is to see the Father and the Spirit engaged in producing the Redemptive Work of the Son

- They Come through the Redemptive Work of Christ (Ps. 89:27, 37)
 - All that we are about to read is an outworking of what John describes here about the redemptive work of Christ
 - The Faithful Witness
 - The Firstborn from the Dead
 - The Ruler of Kings on Earth
- The Content of Grace and Peace
 - We Have God's Love
 - The hallmark of God's people, the currency of the Kingdom, and the hope of every believer is God's attitude of Love toward us
 - This is a continual and ongoing love
 - The Redemptive work of Christ is the greatest demonstration of God's love
 - For believers who are enduring such suffering, the message of God's affection to them would have been most encouraging
 - We Have Freedom from Sin
 - We have been loosed, the chains and bindings are gone
 - In contrast to God's love that is ongoing, this freedom was accomplished once for all time.
 - This freedom was accomplished by the shedding of Christ's blood
 - This is a hope that the judgments about to mentioned of God on sin will not be endured by Christ's people.
 - We Have A Kingdom
 - This has in view all, past, present, and future, who have humbly repented of their sin and turned to Christ
 - In this kingdom, there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, we are all in Christ (Galatians 3:26-29)
 - **It is ultimately this kingdom, and our citizenship in it, as opposed to the kingdom of the world that will be destroyed, that we are to hope in!**
 - This is a kingdom of priests
 - There is a real sense of the kingdom as happening now
 - Christ came preaching the gospel of the kingdom (1:3, c.f. Mark 1:15)
 - He mentioned that His kingdom was not of this world (Jn. 18:26)
 - We are in the kingdom now (5:10)
 - There is still yet to be a future, visible, and physical manifestation of the Kingdom on earth
 - We shall reign on earth (5:10)
 - The millennium is spoken of as occurring on earth (20:1-6)
 - The final manifestation of the kingdom will be found in the New heavens and new earth (21:9-27)

- Our Response to Grace and Peace

- _____ - _____ the great _____
 - With such majesty and hope, such grace and peace given to us, how can we _____
 - Our _____ consists of extolling his _____ glory and _____
- _____ - _____ His _____ (Zech. 12:10, c.f Jn. 19:37)
 - He is _____ in the _____
 - A _____ for _____
- _____ - _____ in His _____
 - He is the _____ and the _____
 - He has _____ his plan in the _____ and _____. He will _____ it in the _____!