

(1). "The Last Letter with Heaven's Postmark."

Intro:- (1). Here's a word not in the old dictionaries.. it's one of the fairly new words coined to describe a certain group of people...PHILATELISTS. Int. derivation ..2 Greek words..."A lover of tax exemption"! Greetings to all you philatelists! Who isn't...? However, this is used to describe stamp collectors..for that little stamp on letter means it is then exempt from any other charges.. its tax is paid..So..."A lover of stamps" is real meaning. A lover of those paper squares that signify tax exemption.
(2). Intriguing and instructive hobby..Many specialize in certain areas. First issues of new stamp highly prized. I wonder what people give to get hold of last stamp ever to be issued?...on last letter ever mailed..bearing last postmark ever impressed? And what such a letter contain? What would you write if knew writing that last letter? To whom mail it? Write about weather..stock market.. politics..inflation..rheumatism? What supreme topic?

I. I speak thus because propose to look at...TOPIC.

(a). And here it is..last book in Bible..THE REVELATION.. Question:- Is this..TOPIC?..Probably written last of all 66 Bible books..95-96 A.D...so last of 66. And closes with serious warning..Rev.22:18-19. What mean? That God's Spirit-inspired writings from heaven completed. Spirit of God still personally guides God's people..but the inspired, infallible Word of God complete with Rev. Claims of Mary Baker Eddie, Joseph Smith, today's Gurus are false, when they claim to add new God-inspired books. THIS is indeed...TOPIC.

(b). Is it a LETTER? Yes. Like any other Bible letter it has signature..1:4 "John"..just plain John. It has an address.."To the seven churches which are in Asia." God's last letter to His churches on earth. READ IT! Salutation:- "Grace be unto you and peace"..from Triune God Ends with benediction.."The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." God's last inspired word to US. Important? You and I better believe it! And believe what in the letter..even though we may not und. all of it.

II. So with keen interest we ask..What is it all about?

(a). What God choose to say to earth-people last of all? Dr. Unger traces 14 great themes variously dealt with.. J. Vernon McGee describes the book as "A great Union Station where the trunk lines of prophecy come in from other portions of Scripture." BUT THERE IS A CENTRAL THEME..that one stated in 1:1. in 5 words. "THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST"

"The unveiling of Jesus Christ"..He walked this earth veiled in human body..often unrecognized as God manifest in the flesh. This BOOK UNVEILS HIM...shows Him as He is...very God indeed. God wants all men to know His Son...who He is... Important beyond telling..Our Lord asked His followers.. Matt 16:15-16 "Whom say ye that I am?" And Peter burst out with this:- "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Whom do YOU say that Jesus X is? A man? Teacher? Relig. leader, mostly fanatical..now long dead? What does GOD ~~say~~ the Heavenly Father say about this one?

(b). In this last letter..God lifts the veil..and shows all men what God the Son like. Read with me here and there:- If Bible at hand..follow with me..with heart of worship. 1:5..Three-fold descrip. ^{Faithful} Witness, you can believe His Word. Risk eternal destiny of soul on His promises. ^{Now} First begotten of dead. He lives! Literally..mighty to save to uttermost. "Prince of kings" He has every right to rule..earth..men, wo 1:7 "Behold he cometh with clouds"..World not seen last of Lord Jesus..He is coming back again..per. soon.

1:8 "I am Alpha and Omega"..1st and last letters of Greek Alphabet..He is the WORD of God..the whole message from God. 1:18 "Alive for evermore..and have the keys of hell and death." Everliving Master..all power. Devil not even have key to own front door. Jesus has it! And Conqueror of death itself..defeating it by giving after-death-life to His.

~~2:2:2:3:15 examples..I know thy works~~ In Rev. 1 Jesus is the great, everlasting High Priest standing in midst of His churches..caring..tending their light. Never despise the churches of our Lord. He shines through them. Always.

In chap. 2 and 3 He is the great Inspector of His churches.. probing..warning..correcting..for churches not perfect in actions..2:2..3:15 examples.."I know thy works." True in John's day..in Asia..true today. Where's it in your church? He's there..watching..commending..rebuking. Remember this! In chap. 4 scene shifts to heaven..and rest of Book deals with future things..that we call prophecy.

4:2 "Behold a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne..vs.11"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power"...Our Lord Jesus is going to THRONE of univ 5:2..5 "Who is worthy to open the Book?..."Nobody appeared. No worthy people in heaven..just the unworthy..John wept for sorrow..then "One of the elders said unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda..hath prevailed to open the Book, and to loose the 7 seals thereof". If time permitted I would like show you how that book rep. title deeds to this earth..whole world. Jesus is HEIR TO ALL EARTH Right to claim it..as opens record that He has purchased it. 7:17 is beautiful..other side of that mighty one.."The Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them (those

who have suffered persecution for His Name) and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Our tender, loving Saviour-God..with a handkerchief..wiping eyes..comforting. Some day the sorrows of God's children be forever gone! 15:2-3 He is called "King of saints"..as ought to be NOW. 19:6,11-16 (read)..His actual literal return to take righteous control of this wicked, troubled world..REIGN AS KING OF KING AND LORD OF LORDS. Supreme One! One more..20:12, 15 (Read)...JUDGE..IN HIS FINAL COURT. (c). Men, women, young people...THIS IS JESUS CHRIST.. GOD THE SON...THE ONE WITH WHOM WE ALL HAVE TO DO..MEET. There will be no evasion...We shall all be there..in one position or another...One of His own, tenderly cared for, provided for, righteously governed...OR JUDGED BECAUSE NAME YOU BEAR NOT FOUND IN HIS BOOK OF LIFE. God search the heart of every one of us tonight!

III. Now may we listen to God as never before...as read on

(a). God has TWO great plans. First, that His Son, Lord Jesus, shall rightfully inherit earth..rule over all. So He recorded all this about Him in this last letter from heaven. But SECONDLY, that lost, sinning, doomed earth-people..like you and me..should be lifted out of despair, desolation, hopelessness..and fitted to live with that glorious Lord in heaven..rule with Him on earth. And I want to read what God wrote about this in the last letter from heaven, out of His tender, gracious love.....

(b). Praise God for what He wrote through His servant John Listen:- 1:5 "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in HIS OWN BLOOD." There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins; And sinners plunged beneath the flood, lose ALL their guilty stains" 3:20 "Behold I (Jesus) stand at the door and knock: if ANY MAN hear my voice, and open the door, I WILL COME INTO HIM, and will sup with him and he with me."

What loving grace He shows..what condescension..LOVE!

5:9 records the song the saints in heaven will sing.. not about themselves, ~~what~~ nice people they have been, worthy to be saved..but this: "Thou art worthy..for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God BY THY BLOOD out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" Will you be able and ready to sing that? God grant it! 7:14 is ans. to John's question about a great crowd he saw in heaven, dressed in white robes..Here it is:

"These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Again it is His blood that cleanses from sin.

And in 12:11 we read of some who found victory over the power of sin, and over Satan himself..."They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb." There is power in the blood of Calvary. And again..21:27..tells us about the kind of people who will enter the New Jerusalem, the final home of God's people "They which are written in the Lamb's book of life". Is your name written there, on the page white and fait, In the book of God's Kingdom, is your name written there."

Conclus:- 1. Tonight...some of the vitally important parts of God's last letter to you have been read. Surely two great questions are before us. First:- What think ye of Christ? And surely our answer is inevitable. HE IS THE GREAT PRIEST OF GOD..GOD THE SON..COMING KING OF KINGS..LORD OF ALL.. AND RIGHTEOUS JUDGE OF ALL MANKIND. *Worthy - to be Lord - (Xn)*

Then the other ques:- What is my relationship to Him? Are my sins blotted out under His atoning, cleansing blood? Will I be with Him in heaven after I die?

Or will I wake up in hell..as that rich man did? *(Lk 16)*
Am I willing to respond to God's love..that he told me about in John 3:16? Do I put my name in place of that whosoever..and trust God to pur my name into His book of life? Do I now believe Jesus died for me..paid full price of all my sins?

THIS LAST WORD:- Rev. 1:17..John said this:- "I fell at His feet as dead, and he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not." Willing confess self as helpless lost man, woman..fall at feet of Jesus like one indeed dead in sins? THEN THE PROMISE IS HERE..HE WILL LAY HIS HAND UPON YOU..LIFE UP..CLEANSE AWAY ALL SIN..FILL HEART WITH HIS FEAR NOT.."Fear not for I have redeemed thee." COME.

ILLUS:- ISA 53:5-6 WILLIE PLATT - CAPT. JOHN COUTTS -
YOUR NAME? PRAY!

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