

Sermon Notes

Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

“Introduction: Part I” – Revelation 2-3

I. Introduction.

A. Revelation, perhaps the strangest of all New Testament books.

1. John Stott.
2. Yet, divinely inspired – Revelation 1:1a.
3. Blessing for those who read it – Revelation 1:3
4. Warning for all who tamper with it – Rev. 22:18-19

B. Clue for interpretation.

1. Revelation 1:1 – “Revelation of J_____ C_____”
 - a. Latin equivalent – *Revelatio*

C. The writer

1. John the apostle (Rev. 1:1).
2. Identified as a fellow sufferer – Revelation 1:9.

D. Revelation to the churches, but the s_____ of Revelation is Christ H_____.

II. Location and background.

A. Note seven church sites in proximity to John on the Island of Patmos (see map.)

1. An irregular circle.
2. The communications are relevant for churches in all ages. They are like Paul’s remarks to Corinth (Corinthians) or Galatia (Galatians).

B. Dating – Probable date 92-96 A.D. Very late for a New Testament book.

1. Time period places it in the historical reign of Emperor Domitian (81-96 A.D.).
 - a. A systematic persecution of the church.
2. The time period reflects an age similar to our own.
 - a. Examples.

III. Are these seven letters?

A. The seven communications do not follow common first century letter structure.

1. Typical letter structure has four, sometimes three, parts: Opening, Thanksgiving, Body, Conclusion.
2. Example: Paul’s letter to Galatia
 - a. Opening – 1:1-5; Body – 1:6ff; Closing – 6:18
3. There is no appeal formula present.
 - a. “Now about” – I Cor. 8:1; 12:1.
 - b. “Instead the “I know” formula is present in all seven.

B. Expositors’ insights.

1. David E. Rune.
2. T. Ramsey Michaels.

C. Conclusion.

1. They are not letters.
2. They are oracles or prophet messages.
3. The modern way of thinking of these communications of Jesus is to refer to them as S_____.

IV. The all-seeing One.

A. Jesus walks among the churches – the rationale for the title.

1. Revelation 2:1c
- B. Jesus knows
1. I know your deeds, your hard work, etc.

C. Divine omniscience.

1. Illustration.
2. Terrifying for sinners.
3. Motivates the Christian to cling to Him.

V. Next week.

- A. The Jesus we may not know.
- B. The hard sayings of Christ.