

“JOHN SAW THE HANDS”

(Message #6)

Text: Revelation 1:10-20

Subject: “And Jesus Had In His Right Hand Seven Stars” Revelation 1:16

Introduction

- ◆ In message 1 – John sees the *Robe* of Jesus...
...How Jesus is our High Priest and gives us access into the very presence of God.
- ◆ In message 2 – John sees the *Hair* of Jesus...
...How Jesus is full of pure wisdom and imparts His wisdom to those who follow Him.
- ◆ In message 3 – John sees the *Eyes* of Jesus...
...How Jesus is our refiner’s fire and sees into the depths of our being.
- ◆ In message 4 – John sees the *Feet* of Jesus...
...How Jesus has power over the power of sin to dominate any believer.
- ◆ In message 5 – John hears the *Voice* of Jesus...
...How Jesus is still leading and guiding His sheep.

(Now In Message 6)

- ◆ John sees the *Hands* of Jesus.

Question: Why does Jesus show us His hands?

(Verse 16 Says:)

“And Jesus had in His right **hand** seven stars”

Question: Who are the seven stars?

Answer: (Verse 20 has the answer)

“The seven stars are the angels (or messengers) of the seven churches”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The stars are those who convey the message of Revelation to their churches.
- ◆ The stars are the pastors and servants of the local church.
- ◆ The stars are the people who accept responsibility to carry the good news.
- ◆ The stars are the laborers who care about serving God.
- ◆ The stars are people like you – messengers who will leave here today with a desire that all people be ready to meet the Lord.

(The Question Is:)

- ◆ What does Jesus reveal to us in (Verse 16)?

(The Answer Is:)

- ◆ Jesus shows us Himself – that He is **holding**, and **keeping**, and **protecting** you!

Question: Who is holding you in His protection and care and provision?

Answer: It’s Jesus!

Question: Where is Jesus holding you?

Answer: In His right *Hand!*

Question: Why is He holding you?

Answer: Because the believers in Asia minor were going through severe testing and trial and turbulent times in their walk of faith.

Question: Why is this truth in your hands?

Question: Why is Jesus showing you (in His *Hands*?)

Question: What’s the revelation (or purpose) of Revelation 1:16 in your Bible?

Answer: The sole purpose of verse 16 is to reveal to you the **sovereign control and sustaining grace** of Jesus at all times (and all seasons) of your life!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Jesus is revealing Himself to you and me.
- ◆ Jesus is showing us His ability.
- ◆ Jesus is lifting the head and the heart of everyone who understands verse 16.
- ◆ Jesus kicks the devil in the teeth here.
- ◆ Jesus exposes the lies of the devil whispered to you.

Question: What is Jesus doing?

Answer: He is holding you in His hand.

Question: How can you be sure that His grace will sustain you in every season of life?

Answer: The answer is found in II Corinthians 12:9.

“And He (Jesus) said unto me, My **grace** is sufficient for thee; for My **strength** is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, **that the power** of Christ may rest upon me”. (v. 9)

- ◆ This Scripture explains Revelation 1:16.
- ◆ This Scripture reveals how Jesus does Revelation 1:16.
- ◆ This Scripture confirms what the devil doesn't want you to know.

Question: How does Jesus hold you in His right hand?

#1. Jesus Holds You By His “Grace”

Question: Why did Paul need grace?

Answer: Because he had a thorn in the flesh.

Question: Why did Paul have a thorn in the flesh?

Answer: Because...

#1. Paul was blessed with visions and revelations (v. 1)

1. Paul saw Jesus exalted at conversion. (Acts 9:23)
2. Paul saw a vision of Ananias coming his way. (Acts 9:12)
3. Paul had a vision when called to the Gentiles. (Acts 22:17)
4. Paul was called by a vision to Macedonia. (Acts 16:9)
5. Paul was encouraged in Corinth by a vision. (Acts 18:9,10)
6. Paul was assured in a storm by an angel. (Acts 27:23)

#2. Paul was blessed with going to heaven (v. 2)

1. Paul went to heaven and back 14 years prior to writing about his experience.
2. Paul confirms to us all the reality of eternity.

#3. Paul was blessed with hearing “Unspeakable words” (v. 4)

1. Paul overheard Divine secrets while in heaven.
2. Paul would never forget the impact of his experience with God.

Question: Why didn't Paul's great experience in heaven ruin his ministry?

Answer: Because God (in His goodness) permitted Satan to buffet Paul to keep him from becoming proud. Verse 7 – “There was given to me a thorn” - Verse 8 – “I prayed 3 times to be delivered”.

The word “**Thorn**” (SKOLOPS) means: “A sharp stake used for torturing”.

- ◆ Paul's thorn was some type of affliction that brought pain and distress to Paul.
- ◆ Paul's thorn was used of God to protect his ego from becoming inflated and sidelined.
- ◆ Paul's thorn was a blessing in disguise to a fruitful and productive ministry.
- ◆ It kept Paul on His face seeking God.

What Must I Remember?

#1. God permitted satan to afflict Paul

- ◆ Yes, God rules even over evil and can use it even for His Glory.
- ◆ Satan cannot work against a believer without the permission of God.

#2. God trusted Paul to not get bitter

- ◆ Paul could have blamed God for robbing him of pleasure and comfort, yet Paul “grew” instead of “grumbled” in the will of God.

“His thorn became a “stepping stone” instead of a “tombstone”.

“Buffet” means: “To beat or strike with the fist”. The tense of the verb means that Paul’s pain was constant or recurring.

(No wonder he prayed 3 times for his affliction to be removed)

Question: Was it wrong to pray for deliverance from the thorn?

Answer: Not a sin at all, as long as we allow God to answer His way!!!

Question: How did Jesus hold Paul and how does Jesus hold you?

Answer: He holds you by His Grace! (V. 9) Jesus said “**My Grace is sufficient for you**”.

Fact: Paul was hoping for a “Yes” answer to his thorn removed.

Fact: But Paul was allowed to keep what was buffeting him.

Question: Do you have any thorns pricking you?

Question: Any sharp things cut your heart lately?

Question: Any distress, irritations or pain at present?

Question: Has a thorn in life brought you low or weighed you down?

Question: Has something happened – you didn’t plan for?

(Here’s The Good News)

“My Grace Is Sufficient For You”

- ◆ The word “**Grace**” means: #1. Divine support (and) #2. Provided as needed.
- ◆ The word “**Sufficient**” means: #1. No shortage of (and) #2. Never runs out.

(Put The Two Words Together And You Get “Grace Sufficient”)

(In Other Words) ◆ Jesus is saying here:

- #1. “I’ll be your Divine support and hold you” (and)
- #2. “I’ll never run out of what you need when you need it”.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ “I’ll hold you in My hand by My Grace”
- ◆ “I’ll add Grace to your pain to sustain you”
- ◆ “I’ll bring something good out of your thorn”
- ◆ “I’ll be too strong to let you fall to pieces”
- ◆ “I’ll baffle the devil and astound your on-lookers”

(#1 Jesus Holds You By His Grace)

#2. Jesus Holds You By His “Strength”

(Verse 9), “My *Strength* is made perfect in weakness”

Question: What is Jesus saying to us?

Answer: He is saying – that His strength is manifested in us when we feel our weaknesses!

- ◆ It’s not given to those who don’t need Him.
- ◆ It’s not imparted to those who feel “So strong”.

- ◆ It's not poured out on those who lean on their own strength.

“My Strength Is Made Perfect In Weakness”

(Means:)

- #1. That when I am conscious I am feeble,
- #2. That when I know my flesh is weak,
- #3. That when I acknowledge I am zero without God,

(It's then and only then)

- ◆ That Jesus manifests His power to uphold you (and)
- ◆ Imparts His strength to sustain you!

(In Other Words)

- #1. God's power is increased continually as my weakness is admitted.
- #2. The more I see my own weakness, the wider the door of God's grace is opened.

(#1 – Jesus holds you by His Grace)

(#2 – Jesus holds you by His Strength)

#3. Jesus Holds You By His “Power”

Question: What does it mean, that, “The power of Christ may rest upon me”?

- ◆ **“The power of Christ”** means:

- #1. The strength of the Lord He imparts to me.
- #2. The enablement of the Spirit He endues me with.

- ◆ **“May rest upon me”** means:

- #1. “To pitch a tent upon”
- #2. “To overshadow as the Shehinah Glory of God overshadowed the mercy seat”

(How Does This Work Out?)

- #1. Paul knows that God's grace is sufficient.
- #2. Thus, Paul believes that Christ's strength will be revealed when we are weak.
- #3. Thus, Paul can glory in his infirmities as Christ's power will rest upon him.

“The Power Of Christ Resting Upon Me”

Means:

- 1. We have access to the fresh grace that God pours out.
- 2. We have access to the very provision which enables us **“to glory in infirmities”**.

Fact: We don't glory **for** our infirmities (that's foolishness).

Fact: We glory **in** (or in the midst) of our infirmities.

(How?)

- ◆ Because God's grace will always be equal to what touches your life.
- ◆ Because Divine power will assist and support you through every season!
- ◆ Because Jesus is in the midst of His church – holding you in His right hand!

Can We Glory In Infirmity?

Fact: To grumble reveals a lack of humility.

Fact: To grumble reveals I'm not living in (II Corinthians 12:9)

Fact: To grumble reveals I'm not experiencing the grace that God provides.

“Most Gladly I Glory”

(or)

“I Count It A Privilege To Be Here”

(Pg. 4 of 5)

(How Can He?)

- ◆ Because (in prayer) Paul received God's strength and enabling grace to glory (not resent) his infirmities, injustices, affliction and thorn.

(2 Great Illustrations)

Psalm 84:7 – “They go from strength to strength”

Fact: Korah's family had to travel through the wilderness to get back to the Tabernacle for worship.

Fact: In their journey (v. 6), the valley of weeping was encountered.

Fact: God promised that they would go “from strength to strength”.

(Which Means:)

- #1. The farther you travel, the stronger you become.
- #2. As you spend your strength in God's will, new strength will arrive and increase.
- #3. As you overcome in your wilderness seasons, every difficulty produces a greater strength to overcome the next difficulty.

(John 1:16) “Of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace”

The Phrase – “And Grace For Grace” Means:

- ◆ That when one blessing is used up, a fresh one is substituted to take its place. (Repeat)
- ◆ Thus: In our weakness, Jesus imparts His strength to us (if we depend upon Him).

Question: What does it mean to “**Glory in my infirmities**”?

(It Doesn't Mean:)

1. That Paul preferred pain to health.
2. That Paul was psychologically unbalanced.
3. That Paul had some “Poor me” martyr's complex.
4. That Paul was praying like some spiritual space cadet “Inflict me” “Inflict me”.

(It Does Mean)

- ◆ That Paul had discovered a secret (a secret that enabled him to glory (not grumble) in his wilderness, affliction, trial and test).

Paul Discovered

- #1. That the grace of God was proving sufficient day after day.
- #2. That his weakness was being replaced (or compensated) by God's strength.
- #3. That the presence of God was more than adequate for what he must endure.
- #4. That Jesus is still holding us in His Right Hand.

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor