

## Sabbath School Lesson #1 – The Gospel From Patmos – 29 Dec 2018-4 January 2019

**C**hrist revealed Himself to John at the Island of Patmos. What John wrote in the book of Revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ. A blessing is upon all who read the book – “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand” (Revelation 1:3).

Sunday: The Title of the Book – The title of the book is “The revelation of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:1). The title sums up the whole Bible, for the whole Bible reveals Christ. In reading this book and the entire Bible, we do well to keep two portions of Scripture in mind. The first is in the words of Jesus: “Ye search the Scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of Me.” “If ye believed Moses, ye would believe Me; for He wrote of Me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe My words?” (John 5:39, 46-47). The only Scriptures in the days of Christ were the books now known as the Old Testament; these testify of Him. They were given for no other purpose. The Apostle Paul wrote that they are able to make men wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15); and among those writings the books of Moses are specially pointed out by the Lord as revealing Him. He who reads the writings of Moses, and the entire Old Testament, with any other expectation than to find Christ, and the way of life through Him, will utterly fail of understanding them. His reading will be in vain.

The other text is 2 Corinthians 1:19-20: “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Sylvanus and Timothy, was not yea and nay, but in Him is yea. For how many soever be the promises of God, in Him is the yea; wherefore also through Him is the Amen, unto the glory of God through us.” No promise of God has ever been given to man except through Christ. Faith in Christ is the one thing necessary in order to receive whatever God has promised, God is no respecter of persons: He offers His riches freely to everybody; but no one can have any part in them except as he receives Christ. This is perfectly fair, since Christ is given to all if they will but have Him.

Every true Christian must have the revelation of Jesus Christ. Paul preached the gospel because he had the revelation of Jesus Christ. This revelation is not simply about Christ. It was not simply that Christ told Paul something, but that Christ Himself revealed Himself to Paul, and in him. We read in Galatians 1:16 that God revealed His Son in Paul, that he might preach Him among the heathen. So we read: “We know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life” (1 John 5:20). The mystery of the Gospel is Christ in the believer, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:25-27). Thus, every true Christian not only may, but also must, be as sure of the Gospel that he believes and which he makes known to others, as Paul was. Thank God for the Gospel!

Monday: The Purpose of the Book – The purpose of the book is seen in verse 1 first part: “to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass” (Revelation 1:1). It is to reveal, disclose, unroll the vital past, the living present, the great future, with its fearful trials and persecutions, even then beginning. The prophecies of this book points to the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was so in the time of John. We read in Revelation 22:20: “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly.” This verse was literally true when written. The things which John wrote did begin shortly to come to pass. More than that, it could truly be said that the Lord’s coming was at hand. We must acknowledge this when we remember that the day of Pentecost was in “the last day” (See Acts 2:16-21), and that Paul wrote in the last days (Hebrews 1:1-2). It was true then that the coming of the Lord was “at hand,” although not *immediately* at hand; it is a thousand fold more true now.

Tuesday: The Symbolic Language of Revelation – We do well to be careful not to paint a false picture that the things written in the book of Revelation is all symbolic. But whether in symbols or literal meaning, the book reveals Christ. “The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth. For it is the work of every one to whom the message of warning has come, to lift up Jesus, to present Him to the world as revealed in types, as shadowed in

symbols, as manifested in the revelations of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples and in the wonderful miracles wrought for the sons of men. Search the Scriptures; for they are they that testify of Him” {RH, November 22, 1892 par. 7}.

Wednesday: The Godhead – The Lesson writer quotes the greeting in Revelation 1:4 and then says: “As we can see from these texts, the Givers of grace and peace are the three Persons of the Godhead.” If you have access to the Internet and are able to watch a video on YouTube, please watch the 45minutes video entitled “Does the Trinity say hello?” by Nader Mansour (<https://www.youtube.com/embed/U6bvUqXh1Cs?rel=0>). One reliable commentary on verse 4 is found in the book by Uriah Smith, and it says: “The Source of Blessing: ‘From him which is, and which was, and which is to come,’ or is to be, – an expression which signifies complete eternity, past and future, and can be applicable to God the Father only. This language, we believe, is never applied to Christ. He is spoken of as another person, in distinction from the Being thus described” {1897 UrS, DAR 357.3}.

Both the Catholic and our Seventh-day Adventist Church officially admit that there is no Scriptural basis for the trinity doctrine. The Catholics say: “But the Protestant churches have themselves accepted such dogmas as the Trinity for which there is no such precise authority in the Gospels... it is our claim that Tradition alone - founded on the Apostles’ teaching, analyzed and reflected on through the ages by the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit promised by Christ - illumines the full and true meaning of the Scriptures.” (The Catholic Church’s New Dogma: The Assumption Of Mary By Graham Green, LIFE, Oct.30, 1950). Our Seventh-day Adventists say: “While no single scriptural passage states formally the doctrine of the Trinity, it is assumed as a fact by Bible writers and mentioned several times. Only by faith can we accept the existence of the Trinity” (Adventist Review, Vol. 158 No. 31, 1981, p. 4). It states “It is assumed as a fact.” Is it safe to assume facts to be true?

The premise of the Lesson writer is that the Godhead is made up of three Beings, and this assumes that the Holy Spirit is a separate Being from Christ. Fortunately we have the testimony of the apostles. Peter understood the Holy Spirit to be “the Spirit of Christ which was in” the prophets of old (1 Peter 1:11), and if the “Spirit of Christ” then it is not a separate Being but the “Spirit of Christ,” and the very antithesis of the false trinity teaching. O would God that people do not form a god out of the Spirit of Christ! With a false concept of the Holy Spirit, many professed Christians are not Christians at all, for “if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Romans 8:9). Satan has led almost the entire Seventh-day Adventist Church into believing a lie that the Holy Spirit is not the Spirit of Christ! But none can ever be saved in falsehood. To us, the Holy Spirit is Christ Himself, for “the Lord is that Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:17), who after His resurrection, Christ, “the last Adam was made a quickening Spirit” (1 Corinthians 15:45) and sent back into our hearts: “God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts” (Galatians 4:6), and by the resurrection of Christ, God has gotten us unto a lively hope, “to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not a way, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:3-6). If Christ is not living in you, there is no inheritance incorruptible for you. If you believe in the trinity, the spirit that is in you is not the Spirit of Christ, and therefore Christ is not in you. Life eternal is only in Christ, who must be living in you to inherit incorruption. “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:4). Only when Christ is your life, will you go with Him at His second coming. The only preparation for the second coming is to have Christ as your life. If you believe someone else is in you, then you have no inheritance.

Thursday: The Keynote of Revelation – The keynote of the book of Revelation is also the keynote of the Gospel call, which is: “whosoever.” “Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17). “God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21). No distinction is made; “for there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek.” Read the whole book of Romans – it gives a death-blow to that wicked idea that God is partial, and that He favours some people more than others. The idea that God has special blessings for one nation of earth than He has not for others, no matter whether that one nation be of Jews, Israelites, Anglo-Saxons, Englishmen, or anything, is a direct denial of the gospel of the grace of God.