

GET READY ...

For the next seven weeks, we will be focussing on the second part of that message. Each week, we will be looking at one of the messages that Jesus sent to those seven churches (Rev. 2-3). In those messages, Jesus tells each church what it must do to get ready and be on the winning side.

Even though times have changed, the battle is the same. Christ's message is still relevant today for Westlock Gospel Chapel. Prepare for next Sunday's message by reading Christ's message to the church in ancient Ephesus: Revelation 2:1-7. What did he say to them? What do you hear him saying to you and to WGC?

REST ASSURED ...

As we consider Christ's challenging words to each of these churches, we have to remember the larger message of Revelation. Jesus wants us to remember and rest assured of at least three truths.

- **Jesus Christ is the King of kings and controls**

Rev. 4-18 assures us that the events of future history are orchestrated in heaven. Nothing happens outside of God's permission and plan.

Rev. 1:5 assures us that Jesus Christ *is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*

Rev. 1:17-18 assures us that Jesus has ultimate authority, he holds the keys to death and Hades.

- **Jesus Christ is coming back to bring all creation under God's** _____

Rev. 19-22 assures us that in the end Jesus will return to earth, put an end of the forces that fight against us and bring all creation under God's righteous rule.

Rev. 1:7 assures us that *he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him.*

In Rev. 1:8, Jesus promises, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

- **Jesus Christ is among his people to** _____

John's vision of Jesus in Rev. 1:12-16 assures that Jesus is alive and well and that he is present among his people, just like he promised.

This assurance is comforting, because it tells us that we are not abandoned and alone. At the same time, it may be disturbing, because he sees everything. No sin, no good deed goes unnoticed by him.

But we need not be afraid, because he does not use our sins against us, if we are honest about them. Rather, his goal is to make us winners, people who prevail against the forces of evil, a church that overcomes.

