

**“The State Of Our Church!”**  
**Our Primary Ministry**  
**Revelation 1:1-3**

**Introduction:**

1. According To The US Constitution, The President “Shall from time to time give to Congress information of the State of the Union and recommend to their Consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient!”
  - Since That Time, The “State Of The Union Address” Has Become A Huge Popular & Political Get-Together!
    - When The President Talks About His Past Successes & His Future Goals – Usually In The Amount Of Billions Of Dollars!
      - Now, The News Shows Even Have A “Dollar-Meter” To Show How Expensive These Goals Are – Down To Billions Of Dollars Per Minute Of Speaking!
2. From Time To Time, It Is A Good And Necessary Thing To Know The “State” Of Our Country!
  - It Is Also A Good And Necessary Thing To Know The State Of Our Church!
    - And In Revelation, The Lord Jesus Christ Himself Gives A “State Of The Church Address” To Seven Churches In Asia (Now Turkey) – That Apply To Churches At All Places & At All Times – Even Ours!
      - I Would Like Us To Take Some Time To Consider “The State Of Our Church” By Looking At These Messages Directly From The Lord Found In Revelation 2-3 – But There Are Some Other Important Matters To Look At Before We Get There!
        - And These Show Us That No Matter What Our Particular Church Looks Like, The State Of The Church Is Strong – Because It Rests And Is “Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone!” (Ephesians 2:20)
3. Tonight, We Will Look At, Through The Example Of John, What Our Primary Ministry Ought To Be As A Church!

\* Like John:

**1. *We Have Received A Revelation! (1:1)***

- 1:1 - “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John!”
- This “Revelation” Is An “Apocalypse!”
  - Means Something That Is Uncovered – “A Disclosure Of Truth, Instruction, Concerning Divine Things Before Unknown!”
    - Used 18x In The NT - Also Translated “To Manifest” & “To Reveal!”
  - Not Something Negative – Like The “Doom & Gloom” People Associate With The Term “Apocalypse!”
    - With Future Destruction & Devastation!
      - Though This Book Does Teach That!
  - But The Biblical “Apocalypse” Is Something Completely Positive For The Christian – This Is The Focus!
    - It Is Light Rather Than Darkness!
      - Luke 2:32 - Simeon Upon Seeing And Holding Baby Jesus - “A Light To **Lighten** The Gentiles!” – Jesus Is The Apocalypse!
    - It Is Hope Rather Than Despair!
      - Romans 8:19 - “The Earnest Expectation Of The Creature Waiteth For The **Manifestation** Of The Sons Of God!”
    - It Is Revealed Rather Than Hidden!
      - Romans 16:25 - The Gospel - “According To The **Revelation** Of The Mystery, Which Was Kept Secret Since The World Began!”
  - The Revelation Of Jesus Christ Is One Of Light / Justice / Hope / Understanding / Instruction For The Child Of God!
    - Not One Of Darkness / Hopelessness / Uncertainty / Despair – Because It Is “Of Jesus

- Christ!"
  - He **Is** And **Provides** All Of The Above!
  - When We Read Revelation – Keep This Purpose In Mind!
    - **IE:** It Is The Uncovering Of A Great Hope Chest, Filled With The Hope & Promises Given By God For His People!
- It Is A Revelation Of Great Veracity!
  - “Which God Gave Unto Him!”
    - “God Is The Original Fountain Of Truth And Knowledge!”
    - Therefore, We Know That What He Has Given Christ To Give To Us Is Completely True!
- It Is A Revelation Of Great Value!
  - “To Shew Unto His Servants Things Which Must Shortly Come To Pass!”
    - This Entire Message Was Written For His Servants – To Benefit His People!
    - To Fill Us With His Light / Justice / Hope / Understanding / Instruction!
  - It Was Not Given To Keep Things Hidden – Or To Hide Things Further! Even Though Sometimes It Seems Like It!
    - Given “To Shew!”
    - Perhaps, We Don’t Read Revelation The Way It Was Intended To Be Read!
    - It Is Given As A Visual Display Of Things That Will Take Place – Even Things “Which Must Shortly Come To Pass!”
      - So It Is Very Descriptive & Filled With Symbols From Scripture!
- It Is A Revelation Of Great Validity!
  - “And He Sent And Signified It By His Angel Unto His Servant John!”
    - This Revelation Has Something In It For Every Christian, No Matter When They Have Lived!
  - When We Come To An Interpretation Of This Book, We Have To Consider What “Shortly Come To Pass” Means!
    - The Life-Span Of John, The Local Churches, Or The Whole Church? It Seems To Teach That The Content Of The Book Of Revelation Spans The Time From When It Was First Written To The Very End Of Time – Not All Past – Not All Future!
      - So, The Message Of This Book Is Valid & Relevant To Every Christian! Past, Present & Future!
    - Its Validity Is Further Shown In How It Came To Us – From God To Man!
- John Received A Revelation Of Great Veracity, Value & Validity!
  - And We Have Too! This Book & All The Other Books Of The Bible!
    - 1 Timothy 3:16-17 - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: / That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works!”

\* But Also, Like John:

## 2. ***We Are Called To Bear Record! (1:2)***

- 1:2 - “Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw!”
  - What Did John Do With What He Received?
    - He Wasn’t Ashamed Of It! He Didn’t Hide It! He Boldly Proclaimed It! Because Of What It Was & Who It Came From!
- It Is A Reliable Record!
  - To “Bare Record” Is To Serve As An Eye-Witness Of The Things He Has Seen And Heard!
  - And Because This Revelation Was Given Directly To Him,
    - He Is An Eye-Witness To These Things!
  - His Personal Reliability & Credibility Is Established In The Gospels, His Letters, And The History Of The Church!
    - He Was A Prepared Man For A Purpose!
- It Is A Rich Record!
  - **IE:** It Is The Uncovering Of A Great Treasure Chest!

- It Is “The Word Of God!”
  - Not Man’s Word, Subject To Man’s Interpretation, But God’s Word!
  - Just Like The Rest Of The Bible!
- It Is “The Testimony Of Jesus Christ!”
  - God The Father Revealed To The Son What He Was To Reveal To His People - Us!
  - The Book Of Revelation Is Not Just Prophecy – It Is Testimony!
    - A “Testimony” Gives “Just The Facts!”
    - Based On Things As They Have Already Happened!
  - God Is Above Time & Events & Uses Them To Bring About **His** Ultimate Goal & Glory!
    - So, To Christ, These Things Are As If They Have Already Happened! These Are “The Facts!”
- It Is A Recited Record!
  - “Of All Things That He Saw!”
  - It Was John’s Responsibility To Faithfully Testify And Reproduce What He Was Given!
    - With Nothing Missing!
- John Gave Us A Reliable, Rich & Recited Record!
  - Isn’t This The Way We Ought To Treat The Bible?
    - 2 Peter 1:20 - “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation!”
  - Like John, Our Primary Ministry Is To:
    - Share What God Says! To “Bear Record!”
    - Share How God Says It!
    - Without Changing Even Why He Said It!
  - Because, “The Word Of God”:
    - “Is Quick And Powerful!” (Hebrews 4:12)
    - “Is Not Bound!” (2 Timothy 2:9)

\* And Like John:

**3. *We Have A Personal Responsibility! (1:3)***

- 1:3 - “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!”
  - **IE:** It Is The Uncovering Of A Great Time Capsule!
  - Not Everyone In The Early Church Had Their Own Copy Of The Bible – Or Of These Letters – So They Were Often Appointed To Be Read In The Hearing Of The People!
    - And To Those Who Read & To Those Who Hear & Keep These Words, Something Special Is Promised!
- A Beatitude!
  - In Matthew 5, Jesus Himself Gives 9 Beatitudes With The Formula: “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit: For Theirs Is The Kingdom Of Heaven!”
  - Same Formula Here In Revelation 1:3!
    - What Does It Mean To Be “Blessed”?
  - 2 Words In NT Translated “Bless”
    - Eulogeo - Like Family / Church Blessings! “Count Your Many Blessings” – Benefits!
    - Makarios - Happy! Real Joy! Something Unique To A Child Of God!
  - Not Promising Something Mysterious – But Something Real – Real Joy & Happiness In Your Heart & Life!
    - This Is Just 1 Of 7 Beatitudes In Revelation!
    - All Promising Joy & Happiness If Conditions Are Met!
- Responsibility To Honor The Revelation!
  - By Reading It!
    - Not Just To Say You’ve Read It Through In A Year – But For Knowledge & Understanding! Don’t Give Up! Persevere Until You Receive That Blessing!
      - Like Jacob, As He Was Wrestling With The Angel Of The Lord!
    - If You Read It, You Have A Promise For Personal Joy & Peace!

- Responsibility To Hear The Revelation!
  - To Pay Close Attention To It!
    - Because It Is God's "Prophecy!"
  - Not Always Used For Something In The Future!
    - But Always Used In The Bible For Something From God! Always Worth Listening To!
    - A "Forth-Telling" As Well As A "Fore-Telling!"
- Responsibility To Heed The Revelation!
  - "Keep!"
    - In Your Heart! Psalm 119:11 - "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee!"
    - In Your Conduct!
- The Reason For These Responsibilities: "For The Time Is At Hand!"
  - Don't Get Caught Off-Guard!
  - And If You Do Honor & Hear & Heed This Revelation, You Will Have Real Joy & Happiness!
    - "Happy Is He That Reads *And* Hears *And* Keeps!"
      - Can't Do One Without The Other, And Receive The Promise!
- Our Responsibility To The Book Of Revelation Applies To The Rest Of God's Word Also!
  - James 1:22-25 - "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. / For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: / For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. / But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be *blessed* in his deed!"

**Conclusion:**

1. Our Primary Ministry Is To Receive / Share / Apply The Word Of God!
  - The State Of Our Church Will Be Good If We Do This!

***Grace Baptist Church***  
***Stephen Elmer, Pastor***  
***4245 North 200 West***  
***Greenfield, Indiana 46140***  
***317-326-2362***  
***Pastor-Elmer@hotmail.com***  
***www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace***  
***www.growatgrace.org***