

**SERMON:**

# **Revelation 3:1-13**

**The Letters to the Churches**

**Part 3**

# **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

**The Revelation of John is a Christocentric book that shows us the pattern of this world from Christ's first coming to His second coming.**

**John wants us to see the spiritual realities around us, to recognize the dangers that face us, and to know that God is going to win.**

**Revelation calls us, then, to wisdom, to perseverance, and to worship.**

## **REVELATION 3:1-13**

*<sup>1</sup>"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.' "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup>Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup>Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.*

## **REVELATION 3:1-13**

*<sup>4</sup>Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup>The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. <sup>6</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

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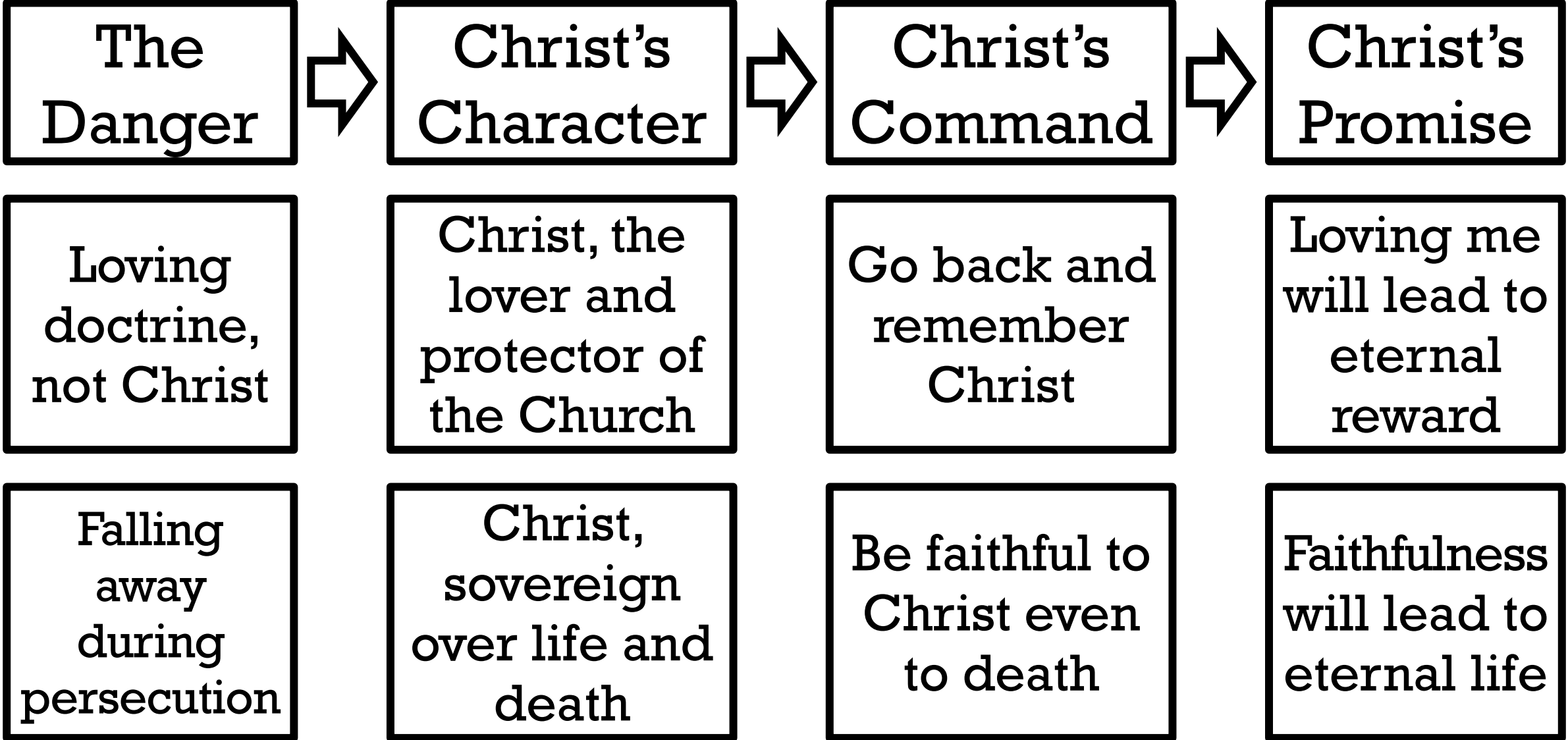
*<sup>8</sup>"I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup>Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie--- behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you.*

## **REVELATION 3:1-13**

*<sup>10</sup>Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup>I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. <sup>12</sup>The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. <sup>13</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

**Proposition:** The letters to the seven churches call us to see the dangers in the world around us, to embrace Christ, and to follow His command, loving His promise.

# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS



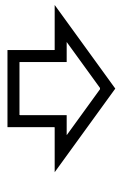


# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS

The Danger



Christ's Character



Christ's Command



Christ's Promise

Pergamum

Desiring to "fit in" with the world

Christ, the holy one

Repent and return to Christ

Endurance will lead to eternal joy

Thyatira

"Love" becoming tolerance for evil.

Christ, the purifier of the church

Rejoin love and holiness

You will reign with Christ

**Proposition:** The letters to the seven churches call us to see the dangers in the world around us, to embrace Christ, and to follow His command, loving His promise.

A. To the Church in Sardis:

the danger of hypocrisy

B. To the Church in Philadelphia:

there is no danger in following Christ

C. To the Church at Gloria Deo:

how do we face these dangers?

**TO THE CHURCH IN SARDIS**

The Danger of Hypocrisy

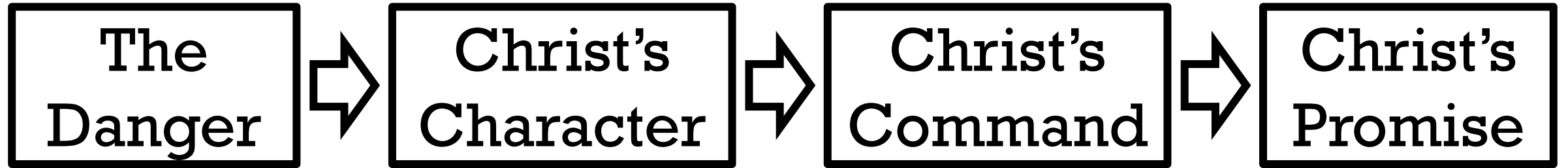
## **REVELATION 3:1-6**

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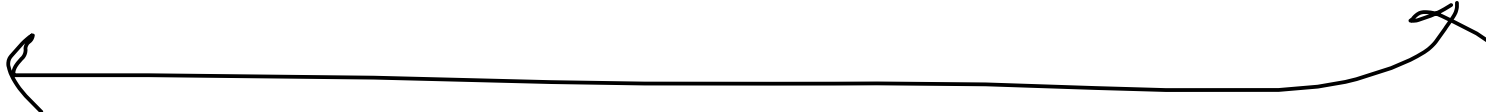
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# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS



# REVELATION 3:1

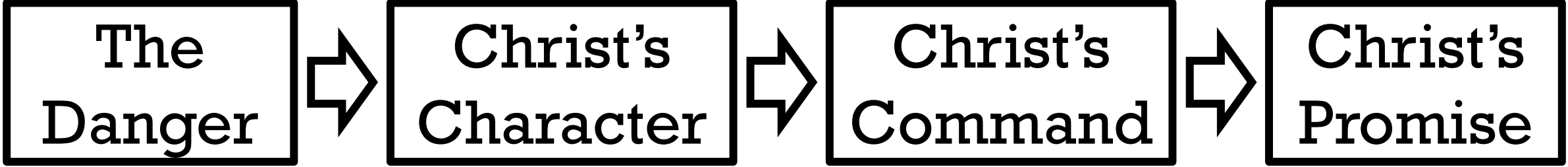
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**Hypocrisy: your life doesn't match your words**

1. Confessing Christ but not living that way (hypocrisy of action)
2. Living like you follow Christ but not confessing Him (hypocrisy of confession)

# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS



Sardis

Hypocrisy



## **REVELATION 3:1**

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## **REVELATION 1:16**

*<sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.*

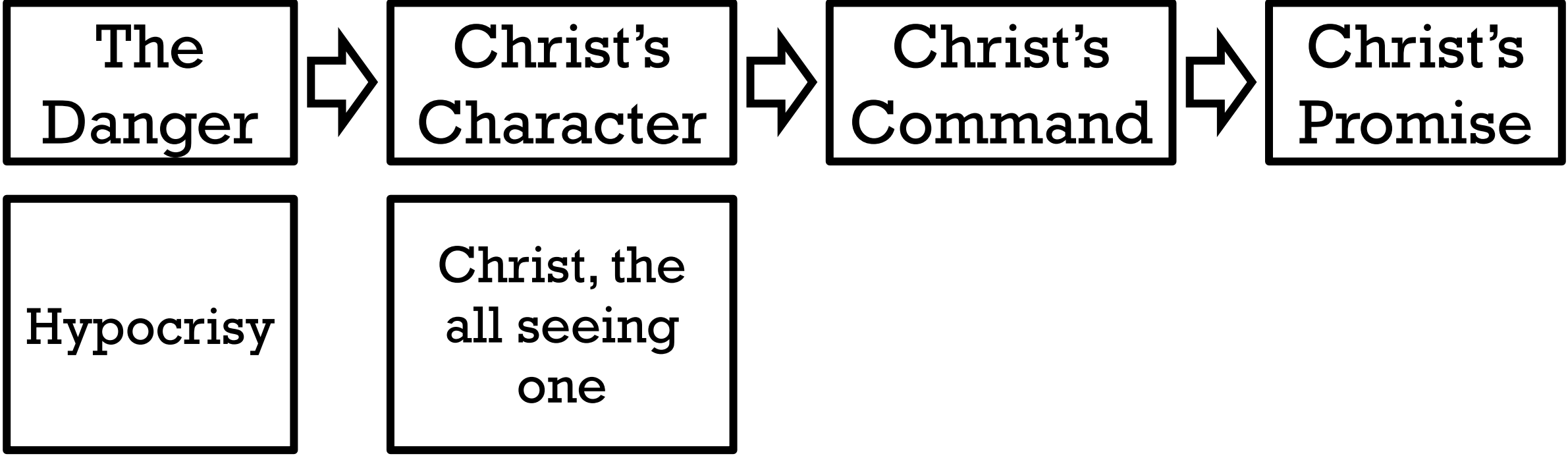
## **REVELATION 1:4-5**

*John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.*

## **ZECHARIAH 4:10**

*"These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth."*

# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS

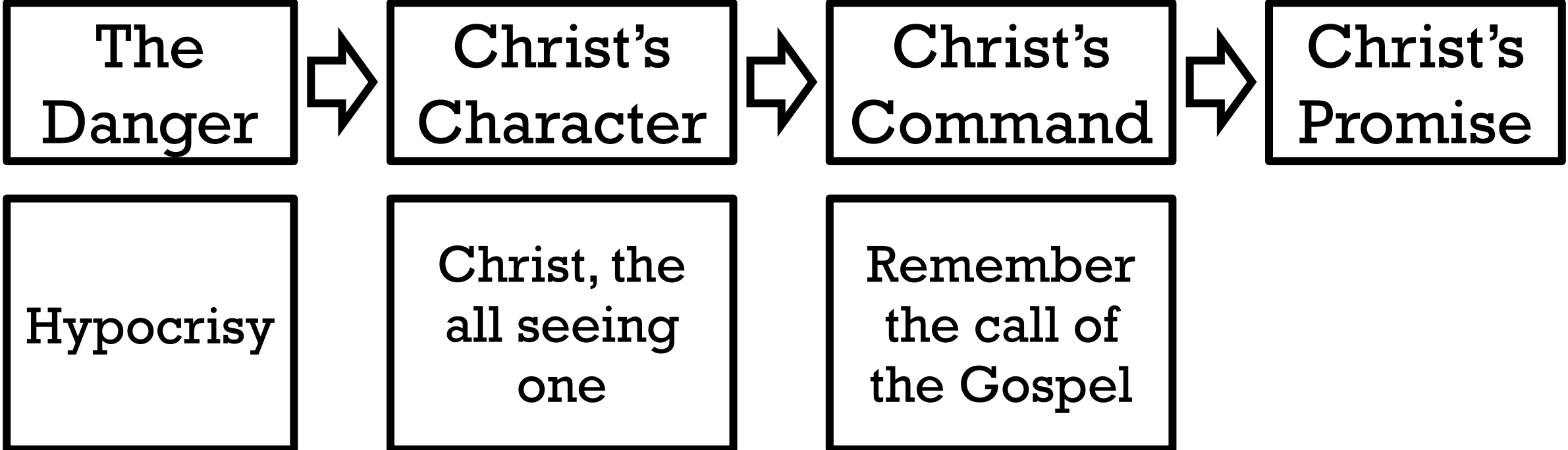


# REVELATION 3:2-3

**1** *Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die,*  
for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my  
God. **2** *Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it,*  
*and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and*  
*you will not know at what hour I will come against you.*

1. Recognize that you can't keep walking the same way
2. Go back and remember the promise AND the command of the Gospel

# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS



Sardis

The Danger

Christ's Character

Christ's Command

Christ's Promise

Hypocrisy

Christ, the all seeing one

Remember the call of the Gospel

## REVELATION 3:4-6

*<sup>4</sup>Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup>The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. <sup>6</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

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The  
Danger



Christ's  
Character



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Christ's  
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Sardis

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Christ, the  
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Remember  
the call of  
the Gospel

Those who  
are worthy  
will wear  
white

# **TO THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA**

There is no danger in following Christ



## **REVELATION 3:7-13**

*<sup>7</sup>"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.*

*<sup>8</sup>"I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup>Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie--- behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you.*

## **REVELATION 3:7-13**

*<sup>10</sup>Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup>I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. <sup>12</sup>The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. <sup>13</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

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Remember  
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the Gospel

Those who  
are worthy  
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white

Philadelphia

There is no  
danger  
following  
Christ

## **REVELATION 3:7**

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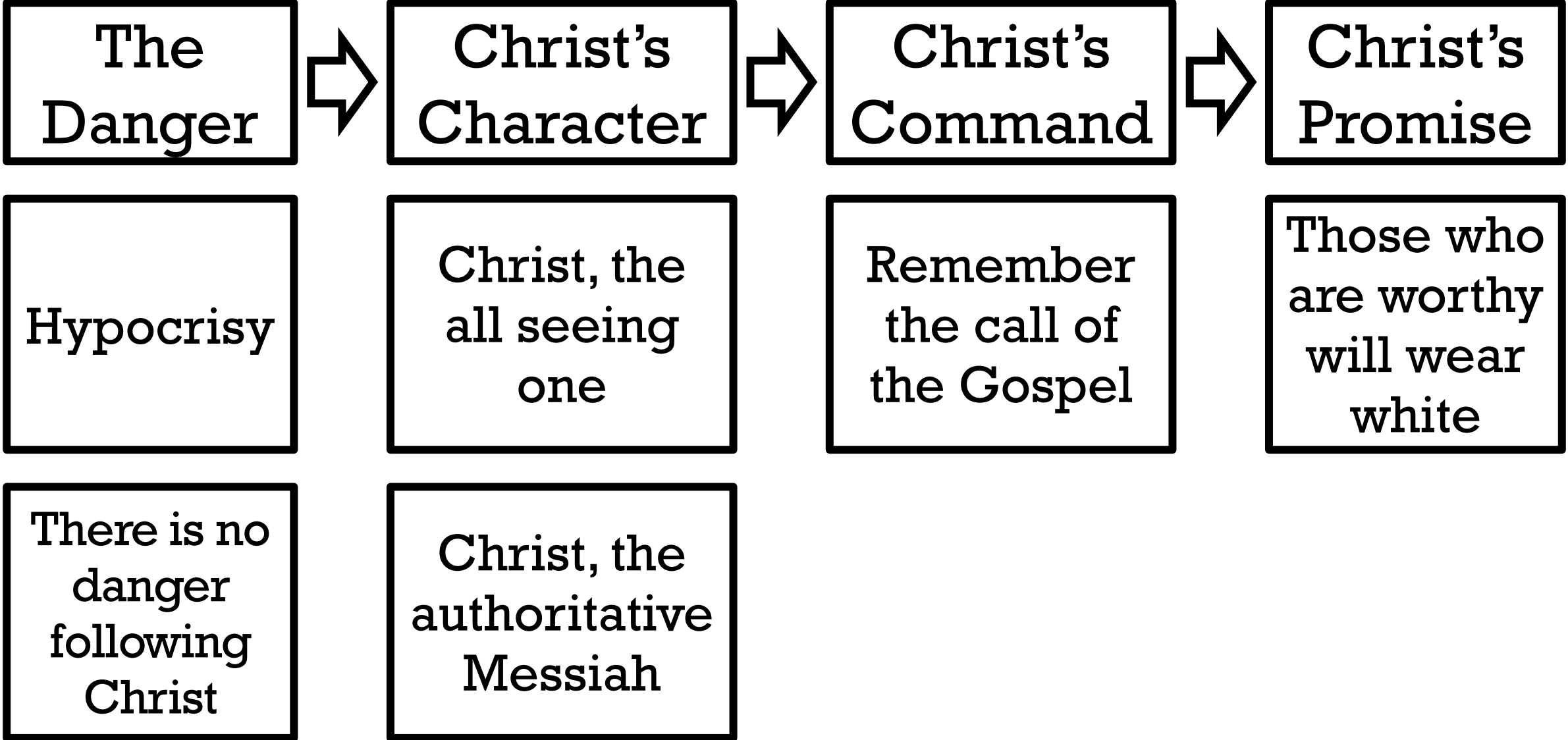
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## ISAIAH 22:19-23

*<sup>19</sup>I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. <sup>20</sup>In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, <sup>21</sup>and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. <sup>22</sup>And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. <sup>23</sup>And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his father's house.*

# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS



Sardis

Philadelphia



# REVELATION 3:11

*11I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.*

# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS

The  
Danger



Christ's  
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Christ's  
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Those who  
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Christ, the  
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Messiah

Hold fast  
to Christ

Sardis

Philadelphia

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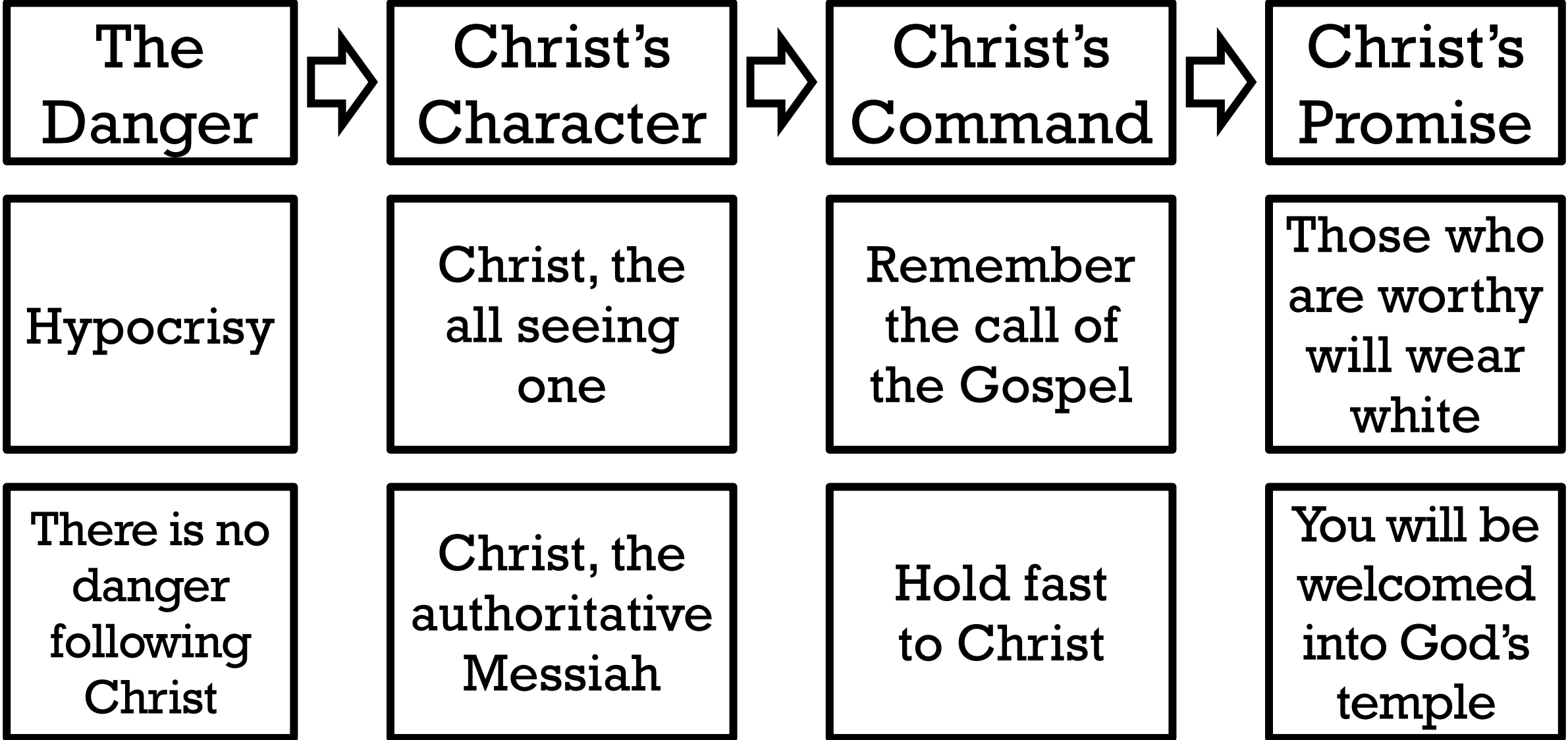
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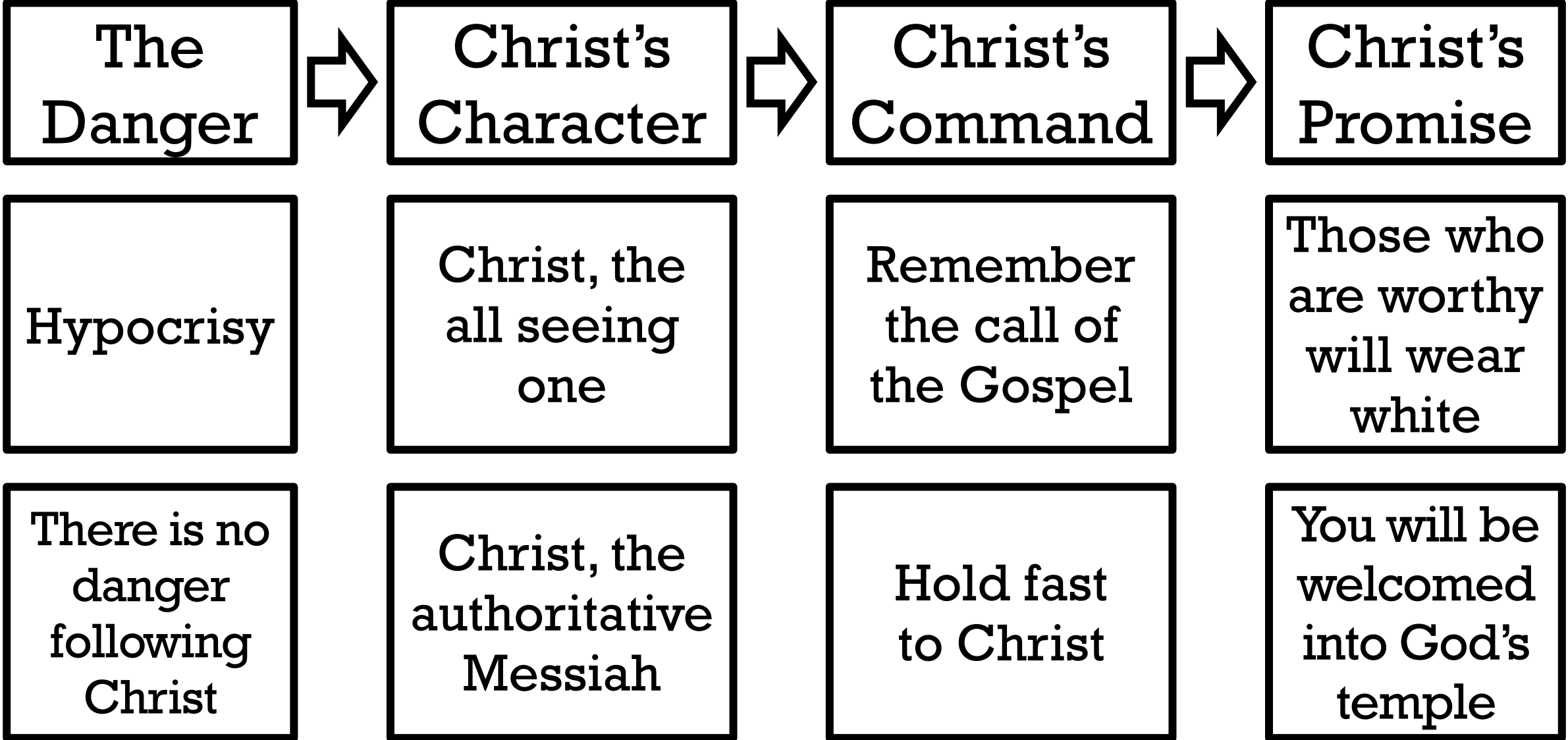
# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS



**TO THE CHURCH AT GLORIA DEO**

How do we face these dangers?

# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS



# **HYPOCRISY**

- A danger when we are pressed by the prevailing culture
- A danger that could look like:
  - Acting one way at church and another way in the world
  - Acting one way in public and another in private
  - Joyfully confessing Christ among other believers, but keeping your mouth shut among non-believers
  - Wanting to look good to everyone



# **HYPOCRISY**

- How do we guard ourselves from this?
  - Remember that Jesus is the all-seeing one – we may deceive others, but we can't deceive Him
  - Remember that the gospel is a promise and a command – to follow Christ even through trials
  - Remember that those who honor Christ with their words and their lives will wear white and be welcomed into His kingdom

# **THERE IS NO DANGER IN FOLLOWING CHRIST**

- When the world around us looks powerful and we look weak, we can be tempted to think that we have lost, that everything has gone wrong, that Christ has failed us somehow
- But Jesus' words to the church at Philadelphia remind us that Jesus' power is made perfect in weakness – weakness and hardship isn't a thing to be feared, but embraced if we are weak and face trials because of Christ

# **THERE IS NO DANGER IN FOLLOWING CHRIST**

- So, when we feel weak, we should remember:
  - That no one can separate us from Christ

# ROMANS 8:31-39

*<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died---more than that, who was raised---who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; -we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

# **THERE IS NO DANGER IN FOLLOWING CHRIST**

- So, when we feel weak, we should remember:
  - That no one can separate us from Christ
  - That we will be vindicated on the last day

## **PSALM 135:14**

*<sup>14</sup>For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.*

# **THERE IS NO DANGER IN FOLLOWING CHRIST**

- So, when we feel weak, we should remember:
  - That no one can separate us from Christ
  - That we will be vindicated on the last day
  - That Christ will keep those who are His

## **JOHN 10:28**

***<sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.***



# **THERE IS NO DANGER IN FOLLOWING CHRIST**

- So, when we feel weak, we should remember:
  - That no one can separate us from Christ
  - That we will be vindicated on the last day
  - That Christ will keep those who are His
  - That we will dwell with Him forever

## **REVELATION 22:1-5**

*<sup>1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS

The Danger



Christ's Character



Christ's Command



Christ's Promise

Ephesus

Loving doctrine, not Christ

Christ, the lover and protector of the Church

Go back and remember Christ

Loving me will lead to eternal reward

Smyrna

Falling away during persecution

Christ, sovereign over life and death

Be faithful to Christ even to death

Faithfulness will lead to eternal life

# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS

Heed

Embrace

Follow

Love

The Danger



Christ's Character



Christ's Command



Christ's Promise

Pergamum

Desiring to "fit in" with the world

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Repent and return to Christ

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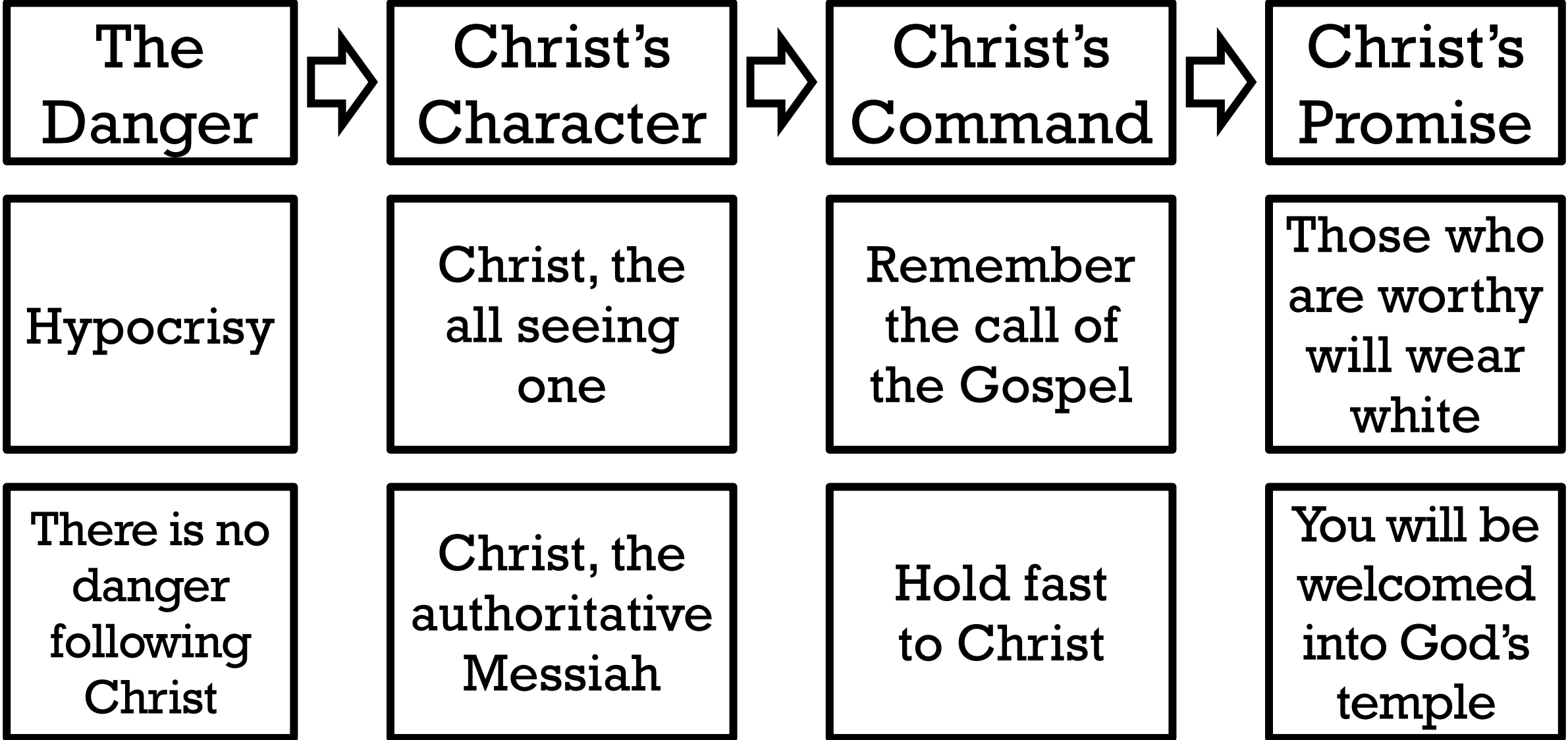
"Love" becoming tolerance for evil.

Christ, the purifier of the church

Rejoin love and holiness

You will reign with Christ

# THE PATTERN OF THE SEVEN LETTERS



**KIDS' QUESTION:**

**HOW DO WE DEFEAT THE  
DANGERS OF THIS WORLD?**

By keeping our eyes on Christ, following  
His command, and loving His promise.