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SOME OBSERVATIONS NECESSARY FOR CORRECT INTERPRETATION

Revelation 1:1-5

Introduction:

- A. Do not think of this as a sermon; it is not.**
- B. My purpose is to establish in our minds some things that are necessary for correct interpretation.**

I. THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS MUCH MORE THAN A BOOK OF PROPHECY RELATED TO END-TIME THINGS.

- A. The Prophecy in Revelation is intriguing and captures the interest of most of God's people.**
- B. But Revelation is also a Book with a special message to the Lord's churches – to the seven churches which are in Asia.**
- C. But the message is to each true church in every generation until the Lord Jesus Christ comes again.**

II. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ESTABLISHED THE ORDER OF IMPORTANCE IN THE LIFE OF EACH MEMBER OF EACH TRUE CHURCH.

- A. Getting and keeping ourselves RIGHT in the sight of the Lord Jesus Christ is far more important than knowing what the future holds.**
- B. Really, the primary purpose of prophecy is to encourage us to be prepared for what is coming upon the earth by living our lives in keeping with the will of God.**
- C. Knowledge of prophecy will count for nothing when we stand before the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ.**
- D. What will count is how we have lived and how we have served and supported our church in fulfilling the Commission Jesus gave and charged us to keep.**

III. FURTHER OBSERVATIONS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE

- A. Again, we must remember that the Book of Revelation is a revelation of Jesus Christ and by Jesus Christ.**
- B. Jesus is the Speaker. The message is His. John served as the recorder of the message Jesus Christ had for His churches.**
- C. Jesus directed His revelation TO HIS CHURCHES. It was neither directed to individuals nor to religious organizations born of religious leaders.**
- D. An interesting side note is: Most books written as an interpretation of the Book of Revelation were written by men who are not members of true churches. They believe that all the saved make up what is commonly referred to as the universal, invisible church. And sad to say, most of our people including pastors look to these writers for their understanding of the Revelation.**
- E. While the whole Book of Revelation was sent to all seven churches, the Lord began with a special message to each of the seven churches. (chapters 2 and 3)**
- F. Each of the seven churches was given the Lord's evaluation of herself AND His evaluation of the other six.**
- G. In keeping with the age long teaching of true churches, the messages to the seven churches of Asia ARE messages to all true churches during this Church Age beginning with the time**

of the writing until this present time – 2008. They are messages to this church – Long Branch MBC.

H. No doubt, the Lord intended for the letters found in Chapters 2 and 3:

- 1. to serve as a measure of His holy estimation of the character and work of the churches;**
- 2. to warn them of error;**
- 3. to instruct them in ways to correct error;**
- 4. and to encourage them.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. You are encouraged to think on the thoughts presented in this lesson and give them due consideration in your own interpretation of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.**
- B. The next seven lessons will concern the individual messages our Lord sent to the seven churches of Asia and how these messages speak to each true church in the year 2008.**