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SOME THINGS COMMON TO EACH LETTER

Scripture: Revelation 2 and 3

Introduction:

- A. While Jesus addressed each individual church, His message was for all of His churches from the beginning of the Church Age until He comes again.**
- B. This message is still introductory to the next seven messages.**
- C. The study of the Book of Revelation will be meaningless study unless we fit them into practical living – lessons that encourage and help us live better and work harder for our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.**

I. EACH LETTER WAS ADDRESSED TO THE PASTOR.

- A. Each letter begins with “unto the angel of the church write..”**
- B. The Lord “holdeth the seven stars in his right hand..”**
- C. The Lord speaks directly to the pastors of the churches and indirectly to His churches.**
- D. Thus, the pastor is first responsible to the Lord and then to the church which he pastors.**
- A. Thus, each church member is first responsible to the Lord, THEN to follow the leadership of the pastor.**
- B. When the Lord’s will is fulfilled, a church is a reflection of her pastor.**

II. THE LORD WALKS IN THE MIDST OF THE CHURCHES.

- A. In the midst of all of His churches.**
- B. But more importantly, in the midst of each local church – in this church.**
 - 1. Jesus has promised, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst.**
 - 2. He also promised, “Lo, I am with you even to the end of the age.”**
- C. Then most importantly, He moves in the life of each member of this church at home, at work, at play and on the road.**

III. THE LORD KNOWS THE WORK OF EACH CHURCH.

- A. Each letter begins with “I know thy works.”**
- B. That is true of the whole of each church body; it is true of this church.**
- C. But it is also true of each individual member of this church and every other church.**

IV. THE LORD REVEALS HOW HE EXPRESSES HIMSELF TO HIS CHURCHES.

- A. 2:1 As the One walking in your midst**
- B. 2:8 As the first and the last – the One who was dead but is now alive.**
- C. 2:12 As the one who is set to protect His churches with a sharp sword with two edges.**
- D. 2:18 As One who sees all and shall judge all.**
- E. 3:1 As the One who comes in the fullness of the presence of God and hath the seven stars – pastors.**
- F. 3:7 As the One who is holy, true, and has the key of David. The One who opens and no man can close; the One who closes and no man can open. The One who is all powerful.**

G. 3:14 As the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God, and the AMEN.

CONCLUSION:

May God grant each of us the grace to learn of Him who died for us and rose again and dedicate ourselves to a fuller life of service in the vineyard of our Lord.