

The Words of the Lord Jesus to His People

Having Ears to Hear at the End of 2025

Introduction

As another year comes to a close, we do well to reflect upon the year that is behind us and to begin to think about the year ahead. It is the default mode of humanity to simply let time pass without any real reflection or analysis, this is especially true in our day when entertainment and distractions are ever present and available. As believers, however, we can be still before the Lord so that we might allow Him to speak to us by His Word and Spirit as we conclude 2025 and prepare for 2026.

Main Point: As we close out a year, we have a chance to give ear to the words of the Lord Jesus so that we might be both _____ and _____.

The Letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2-3

- Although the letters are written to literal churches at a specific time in history, they have application for the church at all times and in all places.

⇒ The letters follow a similar pastoral-prophetic _____.

⇒ Emphasis is on the _____ of Christ and the receptiveness of the churches to the _____ ministry of them.

“the words of him...”

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches...”

- The letters serve to encourage us with the reality of who Christ is.

(1) *He intimately _____ and is _____ in the lives of His people! (2:1)*

‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.’

(2) *He is the _____ - _____ who died and rose again! (2:8)*

‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.’

(3) *His Word has the power to both _____ and to _____! (2:12)*

‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.’

(4) *He _____ rightly in order to _____ His people! (2:18)*

‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.’

(5) *He gives His Spirit to _____ His people to serve Him faithfully! (3:1)*

‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.’

(6) *He is _____ over both the present and the future! (3:7)*

‘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.’

(7) *He is the embodiment of the _____ and the source of both _____ and _____ (3:14)*

‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.’

- The letters serve to exhort us to faithfulness.

⇒ We are called to _____ of the sins we are prone to struggle with.

(1) *Have we become lax and complacent in our _____ for the Lord? (2:4; 3:17)*

⁴‘But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.’

¹⁷‘For you say, “I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,” not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.’

(2) *How influenced are we by things that promote _____ and _____? (2:14; 2:20)*

¹⁴But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.'

²⁰But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

(3) *Are we hypocrites who simply _____ an image of faithfulness? (3:1-2)*

"I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

⇒ *We are called to _____ through suffering. (2:9-10; 3:10-11)*

⁹"I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death..."

¹⁰Because 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. ¹¹I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

- The letters serve to encourage us with Christ's promises to us.

Key Point: Christ is the One who _____, and His people overcome by maintaining _____ in Him!

John 16:33—I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome ("conquered") the world."

(1) *Christ promises us ultimate _____ and life-giving _____! (2:7)*

'To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

(2) *Christ promises us that no matter what happens in this life, we will _____ forever with Him! (2:11)*

'The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

(3) *Christ promises us that our _____ with Him will be made consummate in eternity! (2:17)*

'To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

(4) *Christ promises us that we will _____ with Him in His Kingdom! (2:26-28)*

²⁶The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star.

(5) *Christ promises us that our hope is _____ in Him as our _____! (3:5)*

⁵The 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.

(6) *Christ promises to transform us and give us a _____ of prominence in His eternal Kingdom! (3:12)*

¹²The 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.

(7) *Christ promises that we will _____ in His rule and reign through all of eternity! (3:21)*

'The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.'

The Letters & the End of a Year

1. Christ has _____. Are we _____?
2. What are the _____ that we have struggled with in the past year?
3. What sufferings have we _____?
4. What _____ do I need to cling to for the coming year?

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⇒ We are called to repent of the sins we are prone to struggle with.

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