

## CHRIST LOVES HIS CHURCH



David Wilkerson October 14, 2015

Christ loves His Church. He gave His life for it, and told us that the gates of hell won't prevail against it (see Matthew 16:18). Jesus Himself is the foundation stone of this Church and Scripture tells us His glory and wisdom dwell in it. At Pentecost, He sent His Holy Spirit to establish the Church and He has gifted it with anointed servants—pastors, teachers, apostles, prophets and evangelists—for the purpose of building it up (see Ephesians 4:11-12).

It is clear that the Lord desires to bless His Church so why does Revelation present such a fearsome picture of Christ when He appears to His people? John writes that Jesus comes to the Church with flaming eyes and a thundering voice:

"[I saw] in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man . . . His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow: and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword" (Revelation 1:13-16).

Now, Revelation is the summation of God's Word. It describes the end of all things and here is the first image of Christ we see in this book. Why does Jesus appear so foreboding here? And why does He speak so piercingly to His Church? John writes that Christ's words are as sharp as swords, cutting down to the marrow. Remember, this was the apostle who leaned his head on Jesus' bosom. But now he finds himself on his face: "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead" (Revelation 1:17).

The Lord Himself explains His awesome appearance: "All the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works" (Revelation 2:23). The fact is, Christ loves His Church. And that's the very reason He comes to search it. *He comes to correct His people in love, to purify them.*

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