

*Series:* Behold the King! *Sermon:* **The Risen King**

*Delivered by:* **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **April 16, 2017**

***Bible text explored:* Revelation 1:9–2:7**

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <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.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. <sup>19</sup>Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. <sup>20</sup>As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

<sup>21</sup>"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

<sup>22</sup>"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. <sup>3</sup>I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup>But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup>Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. <sup>6</sup>Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.' [ESV]

***Review and application:***

1. Who (1:12-13) did John say the speaker with the thundering voice resembled?

How had Jesus self-identified during his earthly ministry?

(See, for instance, *John 3:13; 5:26-27; and Mark 9:9.*)

On whose visions (similar to John's) was Jesus' self-identification based?

(See *Daniel 7:13-14 and 10:5-6.*)

2. John tells us that the seven golden lampstands surrounding the Son of Man represented the seven churches named in 1:11. Do you think the message of this book is focused only on those churches or that they represent the complete church? We are also told (1:20) that the churches' stars (angels or messengers) are held in his right hand. What does this tell you about the security, acceptance, and blessing of those who make up the church?
3. Would you guess, that John's reaction (1:17) to seeing the "living one" was a terrified fainting or a falling prostrate out of great respect and awe?

4. Which of the vision's visual images (*1:13-16*) convey to you the Son of Man's . . .  
    . . . purity and holiness?                      . . . stability and firmness?  
    . . . penetration of all pretense?            . . . effective message and judgment?  
    . . . compelling power?                        . . . splendor?  
    . . . wisdom and maturity?
5. What (*2:1-3, 6*) about the established congregation at Ephesus was commended?  
    But what (*2:4-5*) was lacking?  
    Why is just maintaining orthodox doctrine and enduring opposition too passive?
6. What animated the energies of first generation Christians?  
    (See, for instance, *Acts 4:33; 17:30-31; 1 Cor. 15:14, 17-20.*)
7. Pastor Moody suggested that our reliance on the substitutionary atonement already  
    obtained through Christ's death may need to be matched by grasping how to draw  
    on his living presence today. What might achieving this balance involve?  
    (See *Eph. 2:6.*)  
    What impact could a revived enthusiasm have on our community?
8. To what challenge (*2:7*) are we urged to respond?  
    What reward awaits those whose renewed first love restores their passion?