Greetings to the Seven Churches
Rev 1:4-6 / 3:21-18

I. FIRST, "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN"

A. John wrote to the seven churches in Asia. These are the churches located in modern day Turkey - v.4.

B. Why 7 churches...why not 6 or 8?

C. Numbers, in biblical terms, always have a significant meaning other than the quantity. The number 7 is seen some 54 times in the book of Revelation. The number 7 always represents completeness.

D. But why these seven churches? What purpose do these messages serve?

1. First, there is a "Contemporary Purpose" - Christ had a direct message to a specific church.

2. Second, there is a "Composite Purpose" - These messages are meant to be applied to all churches or all Christians.

3. Third, there is a "Chronological Purpose" - These 7 churches give us a prophetic preview of the church age from Pentecost to the rapture.

E. What do we know about these seven churches? (i.e. “Church” Meaning Time Description).

1. Ephesus "desirable", 30-300AD, the young church.

2. Smyrna "myrrh", 100-313AD, the martyr church.

3. Pergamos "marriage", 314-590, time when the church married the world.

4. Thyatira "continual sacrifice", 590-1517.
5. Sardis "remnant", 1517-1700, reformed church.


7. Laodicea "people’s rights", 1900, rapture worldly church.

II. SECOND, GREETINGS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES.

A. W.A Creswell said, "This is the most beautiful greeting ever written" v.4...."Grace and peace be to you"...

1. Peace always follows Grace; PEACE IS A RESULT OF GOD’S GRACE.

2. Grace is the Greek word “Charis” for “Peace” – it is the Hebrew greeting “Shalom”.

B. This greeting comes from three sources- v.4ff

1. God—v.4...from him who is, and who was, and who is to come---this stresses the eternity of God.

2. The Holy Spirit—v.4...and from the seven spirits--showing completeness.

3. Jesus Christ--v.5a.... and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Here we see three titles of Jesus.

   a. the faithful witness"-Jesus perfectly revealed God the Father—John 14:6-- if you have seen me you have seen the Father.

   b. "firstborn of the dead"-this is referring to the resurrection and "Firstborn" in biblical terms always has absolute ruler ship; and is the rightful heir.

   c. “the ruler (prince) over the Kings of the earth”-this speaks of His ultimate authority.
4. Two more descriptions of Jesus—v.5b—“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood”

a. “To Him who loved us” - is actually in the present tense.

b. “And has freed us from our sins”- The blood of Christ is very important. It is not just a symbol.

5. There is even a description of us—v.6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father.

6. This greeting closes with an expression of eternal praise—v.6 to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.