

# THE SEVEN LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

BUT WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO THE CHURCH IN CALIFORNIA IN THESE DAYS AND AT THESE TIMES IN LETTER EIGHT?

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“My Dear Church In California,  
I’ve Written You A Letter”**

Endurance. Holiness. Repentance. Revival.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

The Church, End Times, Repentance, Revival, Rapture.

**And So I Have Written to You This Letter, My Dear Church  
In California, Because Today is the Day of Pentecost.**

I trust that you have been with us every week over the course of these last seven weeks as we have been studying the seven letters to the seven churches. We have learned that out of each church we are to apply what was written to them to us. We learned that we are to examine our own lives as professing believers to determine how we might match up against all the good that Jesus said and all the correction that Jesus gave.

Californians 1:1-19

:1 To the angel of the church of California write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: :2 “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. I counsel you to hold fast to My name, and not to deny My word. :3 You have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. :4 I exhort you to remember My works that I have done among you and to know how much I have loved you. Therefore be steadfast for soon I will come to you and set you free from the burden that has been put upon you. :5 While in the days of your testing, when what you had was thought to be your own, did I not show you in my mercy what your true wealth was? :6 I was the One who walked you through all these things, I have come to you in the day of My power. :7 I have come not to destroy you but to prepare you for what is next. For I am about to work a work in all of the earth :8 And to those who are willing and to those who have not loved their lives nor their reputations - - I will be with you and you will know my power. :9 because you have been faithful and obedient to My calling I will be faithful to you. :10 Have I not put my words in your mouth. Have I not given you knowledge of My will and what it is that I desire of you? :11 Was it not I who has given you

the true gold that comes from heaven, the gold that cannot be corrupted and a message that cannot be silenced? :12 I am the Light and the Truth. I am not a man that I should lie or say that which will not come to pass. :13

Remember, I am the Way the Truth and the Life and in me there is no shadow of turning. :14 What I have spoken to you - it will come to pass that the foundation of my word shall never be shaken nor shall it fail. :15 I know each of those who have cried out to me in their trouble. :16 But I tell you this, you belonged to Me and the salvation that I began in you, shall be completed. :17 I know that fear has tempted you but be of good cheer, fear not for I hold you in the palm of my hand. :18 Remember I will never leave you nor forsake you nor can anyone remove you from my hand and from my Father's hand. :19 Be watchful until the end comes and when it comes you will rejoice in Me. :20 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

And so today we combine the fact that it is Pentecost Sunday  
With a hypothetical - - meaning, what if on this Pentecost Sunday Jesus Christ would write to us The 8<sup>th</sup>. Letter to the 8<sup>th</sup>. Church of Jesus Christ in California?

According to Leviticus 23:16, The Feast of Shavuot or Feast of Weeks was the counting of 7 weeks or 49 days from the Feast of Passover to the next Feast day: Shavuot, or what we say in Greek, Pentecost.

**!!! This is Pentecost Sunday !!!**

*pentekostos*, which means "fifty." Its New Testament origin is the umbilical-cord to the birth of the Church. Pentecost means the "fiftieth day."

#1 It was the feast of the Jews that celebrated the wave offering, the first of the harvest, in what God has provided.

#2 It is also in recognition of the giving of the law when God give the 10 Commandments.

Acts 2:1-2, 4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place (church). 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Tells us that Peter stood up and quoted from the prophet Joel

Joel 2:28-29

“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

**And at that very Moment, The Church was Born as God the Holy Spirit came down upon the Followers of Jesus Christ.** Now as the true believers of God, they began to proclaim the Gospel and from there, they never ceased to do so **nor did they ever stop living out their lives to the glory of God.**

The promise had come to the church

John 14:16-18

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and shall be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

The proof and evidence of this reality,  
Is recorded for us in the Bible...

**The Bible Tells Us – What Jesus Had to Say about it.**

Acts 1:4-8

And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; <sup>5</sup>for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup>Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Acts 2:4**

And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak

**Acts 4:8**

Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them,

**Acts 4:31**

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit**, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Here is what is so remarkable and undeniable regarding the person in the work of Jesus Christ and the day of Pentecost.

It just so happened that 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, The arrival or the out-pouring or the giving of the Holy Spirit came to earth from Heaven – and in one moment, in that instant of time, on that exact day – The Prophecy of Joel was fulfilled...

## **My Dear Church In California**

### **I Have Written You A Letter**

#### **1.) Have I not honored you?**

**vs. 1-4**

:1 To the angel of the church of California write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: :2 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. I counsel you to hold fast to My name, and not to deny My word. :3 You have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. :4 I exhort you to remember My works that I have done among you and to know how much I have loved you. Therefore be steadfast for soon I will come to you and set you free from the burden that has been put upon you.

The Origin of the Church in California:

1769-1833 – Father Junipero Serra, founded Mission San Diego. 20 other missions stations were established along the entire state of California. Serra, Called the "Father of California", set up a network of 21 missions outposts to spread Christianity among the native population.

1781 – Los Angeles was founded. Felipe de Neve, Spanish governor of California, named it "Pueblo de Los Angeles" - "The Town (or city) of Angels".

1848 – The history of Sacramento began. Founded by Samuel Brannan & John Sutter, with the construction of a wharf at the confluence of the American & Sacramento rivers. They name it “Sacramento” meaning “The Most Holy Sacrament”, in reference to the Lord’s Supper.

1848 – Gold was discovered at Sutter’s Mill, triggering the California Gold Rush. From 1848-1855, the Methodists came to preach Jesus Christ and Missionary Pastor William Taylor held services to thousands of the Gold Rush immigrants and to those called “The San Francisco 49ers” and Taylor did so faithfully for 7 years. “California Taylor” was known for visiting the sick, aiding the poor, defending American Indians, & preaching in Chinese labor camps. As one of San Francisco’s “founding fathers,” his official portrait is included in the “Pioneers Mural” in the Public Library of the city.

1868 – The University of California was founded with its first President, Pastor Henry Durant of Yale University. The established Motto of the University of California system was (is) “Let there be light” from Genesis 1:3.

1888 – The great evangelist D.L. Moody spoke at Hazard’s Pavilion in Los Angeles. At the largest building of its type at the time, seating over 4,000 people per service, Moody preached a series of messages, one of which greatly impacted the young Harry Ironside.

1906-1915 – Pastor William Seymour held prayer meetings and preached the Gospel on Azusa Street (Revival). In a rented building on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, Seymour led Revival meetings where Christians were baptized in the Holy Spirit, that soon grew to over 1,500 attendees. Those meetings gave birth to the Pentecostal movement.

1908 – The Bible Institute of Los Angeles was founded. BIOLA’s origins were due to the vision and work of Lyman Stewart, founder & president of the Union Oil Company, and Pastor T.C. Horton. These two men were committed to sharing and defending the Christian faith. In 1912, the school later called upon DR. R.A. Torrey to become its dean.

1922 – The birth of Christian radio preaching took place in Southern California. In 1922, BIOLA established KTBL Radio, over which L.A. native & Baptist minister Charles E. Fuller (Fuller Theo.) reached tens of millions of people around the world over the following 25 plus years.

1944 – The FJM (Fred Jordan Mission) was established. Fred Jordan founded an outreach to alcoholics and homeless men on the Skid Row streets of Los Angeles. It quickly expanded to training and sending missionaries and building churches, orphanages, schools & hospitals, eventually expanding the globe.

1949 – A young man named Billy Graham, knowing the history of Los Angeles, held a Crusade. The Billy Graham Crusade, began on September 25, and was scheduled for 3 weeks. The move of God was so profound and the response to the Gospel so fruitful - - that the ministry team and the Mayor of the city of Los Angeles agreed to extend the meetings. Billy graham preached for 57 nights until late in November. During those 57 nights, over 350,000 Angelenos attended & thousands made decisions for Christ.

The late 1960's & 1970's – disillusioned and discouraged foursquare church pastor began to open the Bible and teach it to the people chapter by chapter verse by verse. Calvary Chapel was born, founded by Chuck Smith in 1965. Unexpectedly, revival broke out in Southern California. Known as the "Jesus Movement," the Revival rapidly spread worldwide with over ten thousand people who, upon hearing the Gospel preached, were baptized during spontaneous worship services that arose in and out of doors throughout Southern California. That movement spread worldwide. At the time of Smith's death on 10/03/2013, the amount of known established churches worldwide was (is) the largest known church plant movement in history (while the founder still lived).

## **My Dear Church In California**

### **I Have Written You A Letter**

#### **2.) Have I not called you to a great commission? vs. 5-9**

:5 While in the days of your testing, when what you had was thought to be your own, did I not show you in my mercy what your true wealth was? :6 I was the One who walked you through all these things, I have come to you in the day of My power. :7 I have come not to destroy you but to prepare you for what is next. For I am about to work a work in all of the earth :8 And to those who are willing and to those who have not loved their lives nor their reputations - - I will be with you and you will know my power. :9 because you have been faithful and obedient to My calling, I will be faithful to you.

## **So Why Worry About Being The Church?**

John 14:25-26

“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send (the day of Pentecost) in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

## My Dear Church In California

### I Have Written You A Letter

#### 3.) Have I not **given you a voice**?

vs. 10-11

:10 Have I not put my words in your mouth. Have I not given you knowledge of My will and what it is that I desire of you? :11 Was it not I who has given you the true gold that comes from heaven, the gold that cannot be corrupted and a message that cannot be silenced?

Why Have You Allowed Yourself to Be Intimidated  
by Those Who are Under My Authority?

## My Dear Church In California

### I Have Written You A Letter

#### 4.) Have I not **told you the truth**?

vs. 12-14

:12 I am the Light and the Truth. I am not a man that I should lie or say that which will not come to pass. :13 Remember, I am the Way the Truth and the Life and in me there is no shadow of turning. :14 What I have spoken to you - it will come to pass that the foundation of my word shall never be shaken nor shall it fail.

## My Dear Church In California

### I Have Written You A Letter

#### 5.) Have I not **promised you** that you are mine?

vs.15-20

:15 I know each of those who have cried out to me in their trouble. :16 But I tell you this, you belong to Me and the salvation that I began in you, It shall be completed. :17 I know that fear has tempted you but be of good cheer, fear not for I hold you in the palm of my hand. :18 Remember I will never leave you nor for sake you nor can anyone remove you from my hand and from my Father's hand. :19 Be watchful until the end comes and when it comes you will rejoice in Me. :20 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

*End of Study*

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