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| **Grant Street Baptist Church** | **Sermon Notes** |
| **Jeremy Beck** | **April 7, 2021** |

Title: *“In His Grip”*

Scripture: **Revelation 1:9-20**

Message: **Revelation 1:9-20** “9I, John **(Pastor of the church of Ephesus)**, your brother and companion in the suffering **(left for dead on Isle of Patmos – rocky island 25 miles wide, 30 miles from mainland of Asia Minor)** and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus **(the reason John was sentenced to Patmos)**. 10On the Lord’s Day **(Sunday was the day of The Revelation, new day of worship for early Christians, day Christ arose from the dead)** I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice **(Jesus)** like a trumpet, 11which said: “Write on a scroll what you see **(John literally saw The Revelation and then wrote it down as Jesus told him to do)** and send it **(first audience to circulate to)** to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.” 12I turned around to see **(60 years since seeing Jesus)** the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven **(complete)** golden **(righteousness “obedience to God”)** lampstands **(church’s representing 7 stages of church history)**, 13and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man **(Daniel 7:13 prophesy – God in human form; represents still a desire for intimacy with His people)**, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet **(representing a King)** and with a golden sash around his chest **(representing a servant)**. 14The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow **(Daniel 7:9 prophecy – representing purity, great age “ancient of days”)**, and his eyes were like blazing fire **(Daniel 10:6 prophecy – fire reveals, representing that He sees right through to the inner man)**. 15His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace **(or brass represents judgment)**, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters **(representing strength/power of a great waterfall)**. 16In his right hand he held seven stars **(representing pastors of the seven churches; they derive their strength, ability, authority from Jesus…stars give light in the dark heavens, light in the dark world)**, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword **(tongue, representing sharp double edge sword; Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart”)**. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance **(like looking at the sun; representing the sun is the source of physical life and the son is the source of spiritual life)**. 17When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead **(John fainted when he saw Jesus; it was too much to take in)**. Then he placed his right hand on me **(John was a pastor; right hand = hand of strength, ability and authority for pastors/ministers/missionaries)** and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades **(left hand; Matthew 16:19 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”, keys unlock/lock the entrance/exit…only 10-15% of humans are left handed; Matthew 7:14 “But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it”; Judges 20:16 mentions 700 left handed warriors who “could sling a stone at a hair and not miss” = accuracy; John 14:6 “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”; sitting at the left hand is the 2nd most honorable position)**. 19“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later **(the 3 parts of the Revelation; 1-What has been seen; Chapter 1 “John’s vision of Jesus”, 2-What is; Chapter’s 2&3 “Church’s history”, 3-Whats to come; Chapters 4-22 “What will take place in Heaven and Earth after the rapture”)**. 20The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels **(messengers/pastors/ministers/missionaries = God speaks to His church’s through His messengers)** of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

Application:

* In His Grip…the Revelation reveals to us those who are in His grip
* The Revelation reveals to us what Jesus stands for as it is represented in His transfiguration after ascending back to Heaven
* We as Christians are to be Christlike and conform to that which He stands for as well:
  + We are a part of the last chapter of church history that is a part of God’s complete plan for obedience to Him throughout church history
  + We are to stay focused on the fact that Jesus is still in human form as His desire is to have an intimate relationship with us
  + We are to respect the fact that He is to be King; the most important in our life
  + We are to follow His example and serve others
  + We are to present ourselves with purity as He is
  + We must realize He sees right through the inner man, He knows your heart, He knows your thoughts
  + We must respect Him as the judge of our life
  + We are to listen to Him speaking to us that has strength and power in His message to us
  + We are held in His grip; right hand (calling) and/or left hand (set free)
  + We should make the word of God apart of our everyday speech to those around us
  + We must recognize He is the source of our spiritual life and look to Him over mankind for guidance and direction
* Tonight are you in His grip?
* Tonight are you like Christ having conformed to that which He stands for?