

REVELATION

OF JESUS

WAKE - UP CALL

REVELATION 1 - 3



PART 1 OF 3

IN THE REVELATION OF JESUS SERIES

SUMMIT POINT CHURCH

401 Cimmeron Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611
(309) 713-1700 // info@summitpoint.org

REVELATION OF JESUS

WAKE-UP CALL

REVELATION 1-3



DEAR SUMMIT ATTENDERS,

We are **beyond excited** to be diving into the **Book of Revelation!** This is going to be **quite a journey** as we take this ministry year to dig deep, learn, and fan the flame of our worship!

A few thoughts as we begin this journey...

First, let's **worship!** God has covered the pages of Revelation with His **glory!** The purpose of this book is **for worship, not for worry!**

Second, let's have **fun!** God has revealed some of the **road map** for what is to come. What did He share?

Third, let's **rally together** as a church! This world is pulling for more and more dissatisfaction, but the **hope and promise** of this book is found in knowing the **King of Kings**. If saved, we are **His children** and are headed to an **amazing home** with Him!

In a **Three-Part Sunday Series**, we will walk through the Book of Revelation.

- **The Revelation of Jesus: Wake-Up Call** (Rev. 1-3)
- **The Revelation of Jesus: Thunderous Sevens and the Copycat** (Rev. 4-19)
- **The Revelation of Jesus: All Things New!** (Rev. 20-22)

In addition, we will have a **Winter/Spring Study on Wednesday nights** that will **dig deeper** into some of the details of Revelation with supporting texts from Daniel, Zechariah, and Matthew.

It should be a **phenomenal year** of learning and worshipping! So, as we embark on this journey, let's **prayerfully** and **faithfully** seek to **learn more** of the depth and riches of the wisdom and knowledge of **God!**

God bless as we all join together! **Here we go!**

In Him,

Pastor Tim

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Plan	6
The Prayer	7
The Interpreting Approach	8
Reading Plans, Sermon Outlines, and Impact Group Questions	
• Week 1: For Worship, Not For Worry (<i>Rev. 1:1-8</i>)	9
• Week 2: Behold the Son of Man (<i>Rev. 1:9-20</i>)	15
• Week 3: Love Well – Church of Ephesus (<i>Rev. 2:1-7</i>)	21
• Week 4: Hang On – Church of Smyrna (<i>Rev. 2:8-11</i>)	27
• Week 5: Stay Pure – Church of Pergamum (<i>Rev. 2:12-17</i>)	33
• Week 6: No Tolerance – Church of Thyatira (<i>Rev. 2:18-29</i>)	39
• Week 7: Wake Up – Church of Sardis (<i>Rev. 3:1-6</i>)	45
• Week 8: Hold Fast – Church of Philadelphia (<i>Rev. 3:7-13</i>)	51
• Week 9: Open The Door – Church of Laodicea (<i>Rev. 3:14-22</i>)	57

THE PLAN

So, what's the plan? We're glad you asked. The next **number of months** are designed to walk us through a **divine adventure**. Our **sermons, Impact Group sessions, and Reading Plans** will all dovetail. It will be **total immersion** in one direction: **God** being **glorified** in the end!

This booklet will be **your road map**. Each day of each week is completely defined within this booklet. This booklet and your Bible are all you will need!

So, here is what we are asking you to do...

..... **Attend the Sunday Service each week.**

..... **Attend Impact Group regularly.**

..... **Read the Bible each day from the Reading Plan.**

..... **Allow God to stir your heart.**

THE PRAYER

No endeavor should be undertaken without bathing the decisions and steps in prayer. Our request is that for each Sunday Service, for each time in the Reading Plan, and for each Impact Group session, you will have these goals...

..... **Make the name of Jesus Christ famous.**

..... **Grasp the greatness of my God.**

..... **Be unified as a body (Eph. 4:1-6).**

..... **Have an abundance of joy in my awesome God (2 Cor. 8:2).**

..... **Glorify God as I am shaped by Him (1 Cor. 10:31).**

..... **See what in me needs to be transformed (Ps. 139:23-24).**

..... **Repentantly hand over all of me to Him (2 Cor. 3:16-18).**

THE INTERPRETING APPROACH

Have you **ever noticed** how there are **so many different interpretations** of the Book of Revelation? Why is that? In short, **each interpretation** is actually formed by an **approach to reading and interpreting**.

FORMAT AND UNDERSTANDING

The Book of Revelation is a single book with **three different genres**, or types of writing.

- **Epistolary:** a letter from John to the seven churches near him
- **Prophetic:** a collection of events that will take place before the Second Coming of Jesus
- **Apocalyptic:** visions recorded in sets of symbols and meanings that ultimately display the Hand of God in full control of this world

When looking at **prophetic and apocalyptic** literature, there are really **three major choices** for understanding the timeline (when the event takes place):

- **Past:** has already been fulfilled
- **Present:** fulfilled in the current and ongoing time frame
- **Future:** yet to be fulfilled, but will be

OUR APPROACH

Because of these multiple styles, it is important for us to **establish how we will read and interpret**. So, this will be our basic approach...

- **Plain Sense Read:** “If the plain sense makes sense, don’t look for any other sense.”
- **Prophetic Read:** If a match for that event has already happened, maybe it is already fulfilled. If it is similar, but not exact, it is still future.
- **Apocalyptic Read:**
 - Where an image is defined, then that is its symbolic meaning.
 - Where an image is undefined, we must decide:
 - Is it literal or symbolic?
 - If it’s symbolic, what is its significance?

CAUTION: Spiritualizing everything will land a sense of truth, but may walk past literal detail that God intended for us to understand.



WEEK ONE

FOR WORSHIP, NOT FOR WORRY
REVELATION 1:1-8

READING PLAN

MONDAY ■ **John 1:1-18** - *The Word Became Flesh*

TUESDAY ■ **Colossians 1:9-20** - *He is Preeminent*

WEDNESDAY ■ **1 Peter 2:1-12** - *Jesus is the Cornerstone*

THURSDAY ■ **Isaiah 41:6-11, Psalm 86:8-13** - *He is the Alpha and Omega*

FRIDAY ■ **Revelation 1:9-20** - *Behold the Son of Man*



REVELATION 1:1-8

I. Let's _____ the blessing that God so clearly promises. (1-3)

Seven Blessings in Revelation—"Blessed is the one who..."

1. _____ and takes to heart (1:3)
2. _____ for Jesus no matter what (14:13)
3. _____ awake in worshipful expectation (16:15)
4. _____ as the bride at the marriage feast (19:9)
5. _____ part in the glorious, first resurrection (20:6)
6. _____ the word of the prophecy of this book (22:7)
7. _____ his robe, saved by faith in Jesus (22:14)



..... ADDITIONAL NOTES

..... IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

OPENING: What truths impacted you most from the sermon/passage?
Let's claim the blessing that God so clearly promises; Let's fan the flame of our worship of the coming, glorious King.

INFORM THE HEAD/STIR THE HEART

Please read Revelation 1:1-8, and answer the following questions:

1. What fears and conflicts do people have about reading and understanding the Book of Revelation?

2. According to vs. 3, for what three things does God promise a blessing? Why do you think these are important?

3. What statements or phrases do you see in this passage about God the Father, and what about these statements inspires worship rather than worry?

4. What statements or phrases do you see in this passage about the Holy Spirit (the seven spirits), and what about these statements inspires worship rather than worry?

5. What statements or phrases do you see in this passage about Jesus, and what about these statements inspires worship rather than worry?

6. According to verses 5b-7, who should worship, and who should worry? Why?

CHALLENGE THE WILL

Based on what you learned in Sunday's message and in your study time, what is one measurable thing you will go after this week in your walk with Christ?



WEEK TWO

BEHOLD THE SON OF MAN REVELATION 1:9-20

READING PLAN

MONDAY ■ **Matthew 16:13-20** - *I Will Build My Church*

TUESDAY ■ **Ephesians 2:1-10** - *We are His Workmanship*

WEDNESDAY ■ **Ephesians 2:11-22** - *He has Created One New Man*

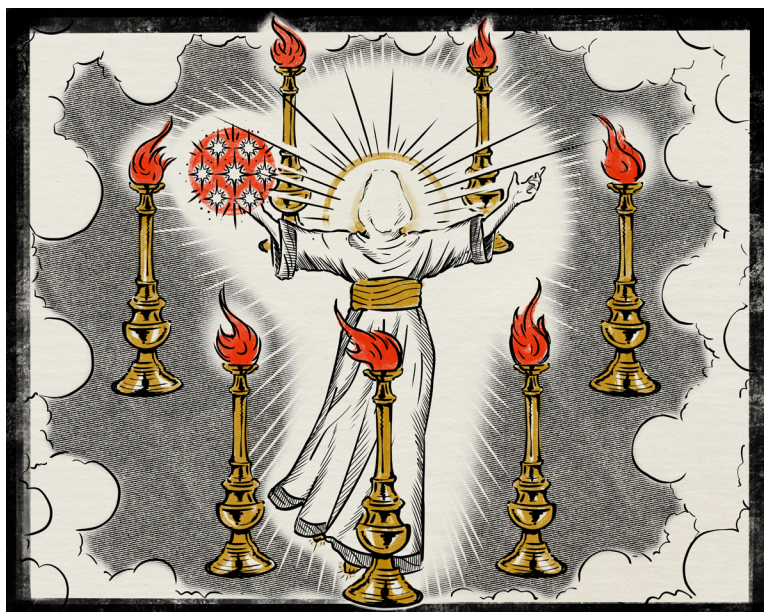
THURSDAY ■ **Psalm 46** - *Be Still and Know*

FRIDAY ■ **Revelation 2:1-7** - *Love Well – Church of Ephesus*



REVELATION 1:9-20

II. _____ not. Rest your faith and your worship in the one who has the keys to Death and Hades. (17-20)



..... ADDITIONAL NOTES

..... IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

OPENING: What truths impacted you most from the sermon/passage?
*Patiently endure for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus; Fear not.
Rest your faith and your worship in the One who has the keys to Death
and Hades.*

INFORM THE HEAD/STIR THE HEART

Please read Revelation 1:9-20, and answer the following questions:

1. Patmos was an island set aside for prisoners. Why was John on the island of Patmos? What would John have had to do *not* to be put in prison?

2. What evidence do you find from this passage that shows John's willingness to be in his present situation?

3. What hope did Jesus give to John so that he could endure his situation?

4. What purpose was given to John in the midst of his suffering?

5. How does having a purpose in the midst of our suffering impact how we handle it?

6. Please explain the mystery of the seven lampstands and the seven stars. Why do you think God uses symbolism?

7. Please describe Jesus' appearance, and explain the significance of each detail.

CHALLENGE THE WILL

Based on what you learned in Sunday's message and in your study time, what is one measurable thing you will go after this week in your walk with Christ?



WEEK THREE

.....

LOVE WELL – CHURCH OF EPHESUS REVELATION 2:1-7

READING PLAN

MONDAY ■ **2 Timothy 2:14-26** - *Patiently Endure*

TUESDAY ■ **1 John 4:1-12** - *Test the Spirits*

WEDNESDAY ■ **2 Peter 3:1-10** - *Understand the Lord's Patience*

THURSDAY ■ **2 Peter 3:11-18** - *Be Careful not to be Carried Away*

FRIDAY ■ **Revelation 2:8-11** - *Hang On – Church of Smyrna*



REVELATION 2:1-7

..... ADDITIONAL NOTES

..... IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

OPENING: What truths impacted you most from the sermon/passage? *Do not grow weary in standing for Jesus and His truth; Remain close to Jesus in passionate worship, repenting where needed; Be a conqueror for Jesus, and you will live with Him forever.*

INFORM THE HEAD/STIR THE HEART

Please read Revelation 2:1-7, and answer the following questions:

1. Please recall from Revelation 1 what the seven stars and seven golden lampstands represent. What is significant about Jesus holding the stars and walking among the lampstands?

2. Please describe the things Jesus commended the Ephesians for in verses 1-3, as well as the dangers of doing the opposite of those things.

- a. Works and toil

- b. Patient endurance

- c. No tolerance for evil

- d. Test those who claim to be godly but are not

- e. Have not grown weary in bearing up for His name's sake

3. Since the Ephesians were faithfully doing all the things written about them in verses 1-3, why would there be such severe discipline from Jesus over them losing their first love if they didn't repent?

4. The Nicolaitans believed that believers are saved by grace and so it doesn't matter how they live. They misused their freedom in Christ to justify engaging in explicit sin. Please use Romans 6:15-16 to explain why their philosophy was wrong.

5. How can a believer's love for the Lord help conquer the temptation to submit to legalism?

6. What is the hope given in this passage?

7. How did Jesus describe Himself at the start of the letter to this week's church? How is His description connected to the main purpose of this week's letter?

CHALLENGE THE WILL

Based on what you learned in Sunday's message and in your study time, what is one measurable thing you will go after this week in your walk with Christ?



WEEK FOUR

HANG ON – CHURCH OF SMYRNA REVELATION 2:8-11

READING PLAN

MONDAY ■ **Acts 14:1-23** - *Continue in the Faith*

TUESDAY ■ **James 1:1-18** - *Count it All Joy*

WEDNESDAY ■ **1 Peter 1:1-9** - *More Precious than Gold*

THURSDAY ■ **Psalm 31:9-24** - *The Lord Preserves the Faithful*

FRIDAY ■ **Revelation 2:12-17** - *Stay Pure – Church of Pergamum*



REVELATION 2:8-11

II. Be _____ to be tested, even unto death. (10b)

III. Be a conqueror for Jesus, and you will _____ taste of the second death, Hell. (11)

..... ADDITIONAL NOTES

OPENING: What truths impacted you most from the sermon/passage? *Do not fear false accusation or even attack, for you belong to Jesus; Be ready to be tested, even unto death; Be a conqueror for Jesus, and you will never taste of the second death, Hell.*

INFORM THE HEAD/STIR THE HEART

Please read Revelation 2:8-11, and answer the following questions:

1. Please compare verses 8 and 11. What authority does Jesus have to make the promises that He is giving?

2. Please describe the tribulation the church in Smyrna faced.

3. How were they both poor and rich, and what insight does that give you about what God values?

4. What commands did Jesus give them in dealing with their tribulation and poverty, and what hope did He give to accomplish His commands?

5. What hope do the following verses tell you about suffering?

a. Romans 5:3-5

b. James 1:2-4

c. 1 Peter 1:6-7

d. 1 Peter 5:6-11

6. Looking back on those verses in question 5, how is God's view of suffering different from how the world views suffering?

7. How did Jesus describe Himself at the start of the letter to this week's church? How is His description connected to the main purpose of this week's letter?

CHALLENGE THE WILL

Based on what you learned in Sunday's message and in your study time, what is one measurable thing you will go after this week in your walk with Christ?



WEEK FIVE

STAY PURE – CHURCH OF PERGAMUM REVELATION 2:12-17

READING PLAN

MONDAY ■ **1 Corinthians 6:12-20** - *Honor God with Your Body*

TUESDAY ■ **1 John 2:7-17** - *Do not Love the Things of the World*

WEDNESDAY ■ **1 John 2:18-29** - *Abide in Him*

THURSDAY ■ **Galatians 5:16-26** - *Walk by the Spirit*

FRIDAY ■ **Revelation 2:18-29** - *No Tolerance – Church of Thyatira*



REVELATION 2:12-17

II. Set _____ any worthless idols and false teachings. Repent and follow your King. (14-16)

III. Be a conqueror for Jesus, and you will _____ hidden manna and a new name before your King. (17)

..... ADDITIONAL NOTES

..... IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

OPENING: What truths impacted you most from the sermon/passage?
Stand true to your faith in Jesus as you recognize that you live where Satan dwells; Set down any worthless idols and false teachings. Repent and follow your King; Be a conqueror for Jesus, and you will receive hidden manna and a new name before your King.

INFORM THE HEAD/STIR THE HEART

Please read Revelation 2:12-17, and answer the following questions:

1. Please read Hebrews 4:12, and explain what Jesus means when He describes Himself as “Him who has the sharp two-edged sword.”

2. How are the teachings of Balaam (setting up enticing calls to idol worship) and the Nicolaitans (believing that believers are saved by grace and so it doesn't matter how they live) expressed in the church today?

3. Please explain how a believer can “hold fast to God's name” AND allow wrong teaching to impact the church.

4. How is God's word used as a "sword to war against" the desensitization of the church?

5. In the Pergamum judicial system, they voted on someone's guilt or innocence with stones. If a man were found guilty, he would receive a black stone. But, if he were found innocent, he would receive a white stone with his name written on it! What hope was God giving this church if they repented and overcame?

6. What insight does God's use of familiar culture in their city give you about how He relates to us?

7. How did Jesus describe Himself at the start of the letter to this week's church? How is His description connected to the main purpose of this week's letter?

CHALLENGE THE WILL

Based on what you learned in Sunday's message and in your study time, what is one measurable thing you will go after this week in your walk with Christ?



WEEK SIX

NO TOLERANCE – CHURCH OF THYATIRA *REVELATION 2:18-29*

READING PLAN

MONDAY ■ **John 12:20-43** - *Glory of God Over Glory of Man*

TUESDAY ■ **1 Corinthians 5** - *Don't Enable Sin to Continue*

WEDNESDAY ■ **Lamentations 3:19-33** - *Call to Mind Hope*

THURSDAY ■ **Psalms 119:29-43** - *Teach Me Your Way*

FRIDAY ■ **Revelation 3:1-6** - *Wake Up – Church of Sardis*



NO TOLERANCE – CHURCH OF THYATIRA

I. Love your God, and love others. But, never _____ love with tolerance. (18-21)

..... ADDITIONAL NOTES

..... IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

OPENING: What truths impacted you most from the sermon/passage?
Love your God, and love others. But, never confuse love with tolerance; Hold fast to Jesus with all you have, and set aside any distractions; Be a conqueror for Jesus, and you will rule with Him over the nations.

INFORM THE HEAD/STIR THE HEART

Please read Revelation 2:18-29, and answer the following questions:

1. From the message, what is significant about Jesus who has “eyes like a flame of fire, and feet like burnished bronze”?

2. In this passage, how does Jesus describe Jezebel? What is she using her position to accomplish?

3. Please use verses 21-23 to explain the order in which Jesus will deal with Jezebel. What does this order tell you about His heart?

4. According to Jesus’ words in vs. 23, what do you learn about the seriousness of pure worship? Personal responsibility?

5. What hope and purpose does Jesus give “to those who do not hold (follow) this teaching” of Jezebel?

6. What statements or phrases from this passage give insight into Jesus’...

a. Power?

b. Authority?

c. Impartiality?

d. Individual involvement in our lives?

7. How did Jesus describe Himself at the start of the letter to this week’s church? How is His description connected to the main purpose of this week’s letter?

CHALLENGE THE WILL

Based on what you learned in Sunday’s message and in your study time, what is one measurable thing you will go after this week in your walk with Christ?



WEEK SEVEN

WAKE UP – CHURCH OF SARDIS REVELATION 3:1-6

READING PLAN

MONDAY ■ **Isaiah 30:8-22** - *Return to the Lord*

TUESDAY ■ **Ephesians 5:1-10** - *Walk in Love*

WEDNESDAY ■ **Ephesians 5:11-21** - *Look Carefully How You Walk*

THURSDAY ■ **Luke 12:1-12** - *Acknowledge Him as Lord*

FRIDAY ■ **Revelation 3:7-13** - *Hold Fast – Church of Philadelphia*



REVELATION 3:1-6

..... ADDITIONAL NOTES

..... IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

OPENING: What truths impacted you most from the sermon/passage? *Do not strive for reputation. Instead, live for real worship of Jesus; Repent from building any mountains of reputation. Seat yourself humbly at the foot of the table, and serve Jesus; Be a conqueror for Jesus, and you will have Him as your witness in Heaven forever.*

INFORM THE HEAD/STIR THE HEART

Please read Revelation 3:1-6, and answer the following questions:

1. Please explain the following traits of a church that appears to be alive, but is dead.

a. Commitment to God's Word

b. Commitment to loving God wholeheartedly

c. Commitment to loving neighbor as self

2. Why would a "dead" church still meet together on Sundays?

3. Jesus gives five commands in verses 2-3. Please list each command, and explain their importance.

4. Why is Jesus warning them that He will come like a thief?

5. What is the hope given for those who “have not soiled their garments”?

6. How did Jesus describe Himself at the start of the letter to this week’s church? How is His description connected to the main purpose of this week’s letter?

CHALLENGE THE WILL

Based on what you learned in Sunday’s message and in your study time, what is one measurable thing you will go after this week in your walk with Christ?



WEEK EIGHT

HOLD FAST – CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA *REVELATION 3:7-13*

READING PLAN

MONDAY ■ **Job 40:1-14** - *Never Contend with the Almighty*

TUESDAY ■ **2 Corinthians 12:1-10** - *I Am Weak, but He is Strong*

WEDNESDAY ■ **Philippians 4:1-13** - *Keep Your Thoughts on Him*

THURSDAY ■ **1 Corinthians 9:24-10:14** - *Run to Win the Prize*

FRIDAY ■ **Revelation 3:14-22** - *Open the Door – Church of Laodicea*



HOLD FAST – CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

II. Patiently _____ only in the name of Jesus as you live in this dark world, and you will be kept from the hour of trial that is coming. (10-11)

III. Be a conqueror for Jesus, and you will be eternally _____.
(12-13)

..... ADDITIONAL NOTES

OPENING: What truths impacted you most from the sermon/passage? *Do not deny the name of Jesus, even in your weakness; Patiently trust only in the name of Jesus as you live in this dark world, and you will be kept from the hour of trial that is coming; Be a conqueror for Jesus, and you will be eternally secure.*

INFORM THE HEAD/STIR THE HEART

Please read Revelation 3:7-13, and answer the following questions:

1. Please compare vs. 8 with 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What insight does 2 Corinthians give you into how the church in Philadelphia could “hold fast” in the midst of their circumstances?

2. What does God promise to show the synagogue of Satan in vs. 9? How is this truth helpful for strength to go through difficult times?

3. What insight do the following passages give you into patient endurance?

- a. Colossians 1:9-12

- b. James 1:12-17

4. What is the significance of being promised to be “kept from the hour of trial”? How is that different from being “kept from the trial”? What hope might that bring them?

5. Please describe the specific hope given for those who conquer according to vs. 12. Why would those specific promises encourage them in their current situation?

6. How did Jesus describe Himself at the start of the letter to this week’s church? How is His description connected to the main purpose of this week’s letter?

CHALLENGE THE WILL

Based on what you learned in Sunday’s message and in your study time, what is one measurable thing you will go after this week in your walk with Christ?



WEEK NINE

.....

OPEN THE DOOR – CHURCH OF LAODICEA REVELATION 3:14-22

READING PLAN

MONDAY ■ **Colossians 2:1-15** - *Stay True to the Lord*

TUESDAY ■ **Philippians 1:1-11** - *May Your Love Abound More and More*

WEDNESDAY ■ **Proverbs 30:1-9** - *Take Refuge in Him Alone*

THURSDAY ■ **Isaiah 55** - *Come to the Waters*

FRIDAY ■ **Matthew 1:18-25** - *Immanuel, God With Us*



OPEN THE DOOR – CHURCH OF LAODICEA

I. Do not _____ on your wealth, education, or successes. It makes you lukewarm for Jesus. (14-17)

..... ADDITIONAL NOTES

OPENING: What truths impacted you most from the sermon/passage? *Do not rely on your wealth, education, or successes. It makes you lukewarm for Jesus; Embrace the discipline and training of your loving Father. Respond as He knocks at your heart's door; Be a conqueror for Jesus, and you will sit on a ruling throne with Him.*

INFORM THE HEAD/STIR THE HEART

Please read Revelation 3:14-22, and answer the following questions:

1. Please look over what God says about the church in Laodicea in verses 15-18. Explain why He would be good with them if they were hot or if they were cold, but He would not be good with their lukewarm hearts.

2. God says in vs. 19 that He reproves and disciplines those He loves. Why would He do this, and what other ways do we sometimes interpret His discipline?

3. Verse 20 is often misunderstood to be a call to salvation, but it is actually a call to believers. What does it mean for a believer to open the door to Jesus?

4. Please compare vs. 20 with Revelation 4:1. What does this tell you about the heart of God toward us?

5. How did Jesus describe Himself at the start of the letter to this week's church? How is His description connected to the main purpose of this week's letter?

6. Please go back and look at each description Jesus gives of Himself to the different churches, and share what encourages you to worship Him.

- a. Revelation 2:1

- b. Revelation 2:8

- c. Revelation 2:12

d. Revelation 2:18

e. Revelation 3:1

f. Revelation 3:7

g. Revelation 3:14

CHALLENGE THE WILL

Based on what you learned in Sunday's message and in your study time, what is one measurable thing you will go after this week in your walk with Christ?



SUMMIT POINT CHURCH

401 Cimmeron Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611
(309) 713-1700 // info@summitpoint.org