Introduction.
My Verdict Walk Through. Getting a glimpse of Jesus.

Need:
What we’re going to talk about tonight is God giving the churches a glimpse of Jesus so that they will stay faithful to Him through tribulation. Here’s the truth, people who live for Jesus have a view of Him that outweighs everything else. **People that don’t live for Jesus have a view of something or someone else that outweighs their view of Jesus. We need a high view of Christ, a low view of self, and a no view of sin.** Living for Jesus in a watered-down Bible-belt culture. Its incredible that what you hear Jesus say to these churches apply so well even today!

Bible:
Revelation 1:4-8 4John to the **seven churches** that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the **seven spirits** who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. 8"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation is written to the churches by Jesus through John who knew the churches. We see the gospel here. Believing the gospel means living the gospel. **Jesus lived a sacrificial life for the glory of God and the sake of God’s people. We should do the same!** This is the gospel! As we talk about the book of Revelation, we can’t lose sight of the gospel. It is the gospel (person, work, and response that makes The End even possible. **There would be no end without Jesus’ first coming,** His perfect obedient life, His sacrificial death, His burial, His glorious resurrection, His ascension, and His coming again. He is the book ends of all time!
Revelation 1:9-20 9 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. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 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." 12Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 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. 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 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. 17 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, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. 19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. 20 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.

Revelation is written for our motivation through tribulation. Why? We will go thru tribulation. We may go thru The Tribulation. Differing views of the Great Tribulation and the Church. 9 Weeks of Revelation series. Jesus is using the book of Revelation to prepare the church for tribulation. The importance, our need, and the theological significance of the church. John was missing his church. Jesus came to him on the Lord’s Day. A vision of Christ helps us continue with the church!

Revelation 2 - 3 The Churches of Asia Minor

To the Church in Ephesus
Revelation 2:1 "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. 2 "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. 3I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. 4But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5Remember 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. 6Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7He 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."

The Christ: Him who holds and walks among the seven stars.
The Good: hard work, patient endurance, don’t put up with evil, found false teachers, all for Jesus’ name sake. Hate the work of the Nicolatians.
The Bad: Abandoned first love.
The Call: Remember and repent.
The Warning: Remove lampstand.
The Reward: The one who conquers will be granted to eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God.

To the Church in Smyrna
Revelation 2:8"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: "The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. 9I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death."

The Christ: The first and the last who died and came to life.
The Situation: They are persecuted and poor, slandered against by so-called Christians. Thrown into prison, tested for 10 days, tribulation.
The Call: Do not fear suffering. Be faithful.
The Reward: Given the crown of life. Those who conquer won’t experience the second death
To the Church in Pergamum

Revelation 2:12
And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: "The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword."

13 I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.

15 So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

16 Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it."

The Christ: Him who has the sharp, two-edged sword.
The Good: You live where Satan’s throne is. You hold to the name of Jesus, don’t deny faith even during Antipas who was killed.
The Bad: Some hold to Balaam teaching (idol food and sex). Some hold to Nicoloatian teaching.
The Call: Repent.
The Warning: Jesus returns and war against the church with His sword.
The Reward: Given hidden manna, white stone, a new name on that stone no one knows.

To the Church in Thyatira

Revelation 2:18
And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: "The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze."

19 I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

22 Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works,

23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you
according to your works. 

24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. 

25 Only hold fast what you have until I come. 

26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. 

28 And I will give him the morning star. 

29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The Christ: Son of God. Eyes like fire. Feet like bronze.  
The Good: Love, faith, service, patient endurance, growing.  
The Bad: False worship of Jezebel and sins of sex and idol food.  
The Warning: If you don’t repent of adultery - sickness, tribulation, death.  
The Reward: Conquer and keep words will be given authority, rule.  

To the Church in Sardis  

Revelation 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: "The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 

2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. 

3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. 

4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 

5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. 

6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The Christ: Has the seven spirits and the seven stars.  
The Bad: I know you. Reputation of alive, but dead.  
The Warning: Come like a thief. Come against you. Few are worthy.  
The Reward: Conquerors will be clothed, not blotted, confessed.
To the Church in Philadelphia

Revelation 2:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: "The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. 8"I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you. 10Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. 11I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. 12The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. 13He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The Christ: The holy, true one. Key of David, opens and shuts.
The Situation: Little power, will be served by the fakers.
The Reward: Keep you from the hour coming.
The Call: I’m coming soon. Hold fast. Pillar in God’s temple. Give you name of God, city, and Jesus.

To the Church in Laodicea

Revelation 2:14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: "The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. 15"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. 17For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. 19Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. 20Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come
in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 21The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The Call: Buy gold from God, buy clothes from God, real sight from God. Be zealous and repent.
The Warning: Love, reprove, discipline.
The Reward: Let Jesus in the church and eat! Conquerors sit on thrones!

Story:
Parable of the Bridegroom coming.

Application:
How to get a revelation of Jesus as your motivation thru tribulation.
1. Savor Jesus in all the Scriptures.
2. Get a powerful picture of Jesus from prayer.
3. Love what Jesus is doing in others’ lives (Community)
4. Get on mission with the gospel.
5. Enjoy Jesus thru His creation.