THE TEMPLATE FOR THE QUIZ ON THE 3RD SESSION ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION\*

1.   Give one word description which would sum-up the spiritual condition of churches mentioned in chapter 2 and 3  of Book of Revelation?

ANS:- The spiritual condition of the seven churches mentioned in chapter 2 and 3  is :

a)   EPHESUS – COLD  - REVELATION 2:4...outwardly ok but has lost out on spiritual passion and fervour for the Lord.

b)   SMYRNA – COMMITTED - REVELATION 2:9-10-A good Cross-bearer.

c)    PERGAMOS - COMPROMISE (on morality)- REVELATION 2:14-15

d)   THYATIRA – COMPROMISE (on morality) - REVELATION 2:20

e)    SARDIS – COUNTERFEIT(COPY) - REVELATION 3:3-Resting in past glory. Not toeing the Pauline line of Philippians 3:13-15.

If we do not progress, we will regress. Eg...if the Ship does not move forward in the Sea, the sea waves will push it back.

f)     PHILADELPHIA – COMMITTED - REVELATION 3:8-A good Cross-bearer

g)    LAODECIA - CALLOUS - REVELATION 3:15-17...totally indifferent to its pathetic spiritual condition

2.   What is the common pattern (the 4 Cs’) seen in Jesus address to these 7 churches? And why so?

ANS: Just as a wise Parent on scanning the report card of his son/daughter first appreciates his offspring for scoring good marks on certain subjects before expressing his concern on subjects where improvement is required , Jesus also displayed wonderful parental qualities of first appreciating the good points observed in most of the Churches and then expressed His concern on other areas' where these Churches were slipping. The common pattern of four C’s is :

a) CHARACTERISTIC- Jesus introduced himself to seven churches with his different attributes, qualities and physical features viz. , Holder of seven stars Walker among lampstands, One who is the First and the Last, One who has sharp two-edged sword , One who has eyes like flame and fire , One who has seven  spirits of God and true One, One who has the key of David and the Faithful etc. Checkmark

b) COMMENDATION- Jesus  starts  addressing the seven churches  first with His words of  commendation (viz. ,  REV  2:2 , REV  2:9 , REV 2:13 , REV 2:19, REV 3:1 ,REV 3:8 ,  REV 3:15).

c) CRITISISM- Criticism of Jesus on the Churches is followed by command.

d) COMMAND -  Jesus  commanded the seven churches to take corrective action basing on the criticism.

Jesus told John to write to the angels of seven churches. Angels are leaders who take care of spiritual matters. Under these leaders seven deacons operate who take care of financial, administration and social matters.

3. What are two types of “Repentance” seen in a Christian’s life? Explain the saying “Christian life begins with repentance and is sustained by repentance”?

ANS: The two types of repentance are REPENT and REPENT/RESOLVE.

        After the first repentance leads to the born again experience in our lives,  later on whenever we go astray immediately we need to repent and get back to Christ. We have two weapons / equipment i.e. a) The word of God,

b) Leading of the Holy Spirit.

They are like two blades of a scissor which work hand in hand. This is the promise given by God.👇

 \*Isaiah 59:21“As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord. “My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever,” says the Lord.\*

4.    What are the 4 Bs which bring about the intimacy of relationship between Christ and Christians?

      ANS: The four B’s which bring about the intimacy of relationship between CHRIST and Christians are

a)   We are the branches and Jesus is the Wine -  John 15:5

b)   We are the body and He is the Head – Col 1:18

c)    We are the bride and He is the Bridegroom – Rev.19:7

d)   We are the building and He is the Cornerstone – Eph.2:20

5.   What similarities are there when it comes to milestone occurrences in Christ’s life and Christian’s life?

ANS: The Similarities when coming to milestone occurrences in Christ’s life and Christians life are :

a) Birth of Jesus is supernatural- born of a Virgin and Christians spiritual regeneration becoming children of God (salvation by the power of Holy Spirit. John 1:11-12.) is also miraculous.

b) Jesus’ life is bracketed by two miracles. He entered the womb of a virgin which no man can enter and exited the empty tomb in a way no man has existed before.eg...Jairus daughter, Lazarus etc who had resurrection experience died subsequently but Jesus lives on with His tomb still very much empty.

Christian too has a unique birth into the kingdom of God and his grave will also be opened as he has three bodies viz., Physical, Resurrected and Glorified body.

c) Through the resurrection Jesus is the first fruit of countless resurrection of Christians which is going to take place-1 Cor 15:20

d) Jesus overcame three temptations before he began his ministry. Viz., lust of flesh, lust of eye and pride of life. At the beginning of a Christian’s life, a Christian also overcomes these.

e) Then comes a tougher Cross bearing ordeal in Christ's life. Luke 23:23. Injustice won over justice and lie won over truth temporarily in Christ's life with He becoming a victim of injustice and lies. In all this, Jesus never retaliated, a Christian though at the receiving end of injustice and lies also will not retaliate.

For a Christian too like Christ, Cross-bearing would always be a tougher experience when compared to overcoming lust of the flesh and eyes and pride of life.

What happened in Christ’s life is bound to happen in a Christian’s life.

6.   While issues of 7 churches may vary. What is that one phrase which Christ uses in all of His 7 epistles to the 7 Churches?

       ANS:   Though the issues of seven churches vary but one common aspect which Jesus uses the phrase “to the one who is overcomer-conqueror” as mentioned in REV2:7, REV 2:11, REV 2:17, REV 3:5, REV 3:12, REV 2:26.

7.   What are the 2 constant Ps in a Christian’s life?

     ANS:  The two constant P’s in a Christian’s life are PRESSURE OUTSIDE and PLEASURE INSIDE.

According to 1PETER 1:7-8 – “These \*trials\* will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. 8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a \*glorious, inexpressible joy.\*” The joy of the Lord is the manifestation of HIS own Holy presence and strength placed within us for us to overcome the trials-Neh 8:10/Psa 16:11/Rom 15:13 .

8.   Who is the Christian who is truly “victorious” in Christ’s sight?

       ANS: According to 1 Pet.2:18-21, a Cross bearing Christian is victorious when he does not retaliate which is the calling of God to be like Jesus. By this he becomes an overcomer. The living waters flow in a Christian’s heart and Holy Spirit dwells in him. By being submissive to the will of Father even while suffering injustice and lies is the quality of an overcomer. In this process, the overcomerbbecomes more and more Christ-like (Rom 5:3-4/James 1:2-3) .A cross-bearer will be commended by God because Christ also suffered injustice as in Rev.3:21 – \*“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne just as I overcame ad sat down with my Father on His throne”.\*

When compared to highest civilian awards (eg.. Bharat Ratna in India), Christ's reward to Christian's (one of it is the authority to rule over angels) is glorious making our sufferings for Him pale in comparison (Rom 8:18/1 Cor 2:9)...