

# THE SCOPE OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY

Rev. 1:4-7

## I. QUALIFICATIONS (1:5a).

### A. Faithful Witness, v. 5.

1. Def. of "witness: "One who beholds or has personal knowledge of anything" (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary). See acts 1:8; John 1:15; 3:23f; John 20:29; Heb. 11:1.
2. In the New Testament the word often signifies one who gives testimony to the truth at the expense of his life. Our word "martyr" comes from it.
3. Applied to Christ:
  - a. Ps. 89:37, seed of David called "a faithful witness."
  - b. Isa. 55:4, "Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people."
  - c. John 18:36-38.
4. How? As God's PROPHET He was a "faithful witness":
  - a. When He taught, John 3:32. Here he bore witness of God. See also Jn. 1:18. But also:
  - b. Before Pilate, 1 Tim. 6:13-16.
  - c. Before the Jews when falsely accused, John 5:18-20, 30-47.

### B. Firstborn From The Dead, v. 5.

1. The resurrection of Christ is associated with his ministry. At least a twofold ministry:
  - a. If not raised, we are yet in our sins, 1 Cor. 15:12-20.
  - b. If not raised, we will not be raised, John 14:19.
2. In His death He destroyed him who had the power of death, the devil (Heb. 2:14), and in His temptation, sacrifice and victory over death through resurrection from the dead, He qualified himself to become a faithful and merciful high PRIEST for us before God (Heb. 2:16-18).

### C. Ruler Over The Kings Of The Earth, v. 5.

1. Has the power of a ruler, Rom. 1:4.
2. Psa. 89:27, "Also I will make him my firstborn higher than the kings of the earth."
3. Jer. 10:6, 7, KING of nations. Cf. Psa. 47; Dan. 2:21; 4:37; Isa. 10:5-7.
4. Rev. 19:16, King of kings.
5. Rev. 11:15, Kingdom of world is become kingdom of our Lord.

## II. WORK (1:5b).

### A. The *Motive*---"Who loved us."

1. Even though we did not deserve to be loved, Rom. 5:6-11.
2. Love moved Him to act in our favor as God was moved by love to send his Son, John 3:16.

### B. The *Agency* (Means)---"in His own blood."

1. He loved us and gave Himself for us, Eph. 5:2, 25.
2. Lev. 19:10-11, life of flesh in the blood.
3. Agency of His blood is meant. See Rev. 5:9 and John 1:29.

### C. The *Benefit*---" washed us from our sins."

1. Shed literal blood, but not literally washed in His blood.
2. His work is a work of redemption (Rev. 5:9); to have sins washed away in His blood is to be forgiven of sins.
3. Sins washed away when baptized, Acts 22:16, Not by water but by blood, yet when baptized in water, Col. 2:12-13.
4. Cf. "that He might sanctify and cleanse it [the church] with the washing of water by the word," Eph. 5:26, and, "but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit," Tit. 3:5.

## III. RESULTS (1:6).

### A. Has made us KINGS or a KINGDOM, v. 6a.

1. Christ is the founder of the kingdom.

2. Viewed from different points of view, we find:
  - a. From heaven's point of view: He was to appear (though stated as a fact) before the Ancient of Days to receive this kingdom, power, etc., Daniel 7:13-14.
  - b. From earth's point of view: Christ goes away into heaven to receive a kingdom (Luke 19:11-27).
  - c. John in Revelation: as a reality (Rev. 1:10 with 5:10).

B. Has made us PRIESTS or a PRIESTHOOD, v. 6a.

1. See 1 Peter 2:5, 9.
2. Christ would be priest when he would "sit and rule upon his throne" (Zech. 6:13a), because the prophet adds, "and shall be a priest upon his throne" (Zech. 6:13b). Since he now "sits" and "rules" (1 Peter 3:22) on his throne, he also now serves as priest on his throne.

Note: I got the substance of this outline from Homer Hailey's class on the book of Revelation several year ago — Walton Weaver