

**"GOD'S WITNESSES ON EARTH"****Introduction**

1. Scope of Rev.: 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
2. Symbols, especially from O.T. (apocalyptic)
3. Theme: God's church on earth: ups + downs:
4. Victory always in the end (v.15f)

**1. HOW WE ARE TO "MEASURE" GOD'S CHURCH:** v.1-2

- 1) By "measure" I mean evaluate, whether it is true or false.
- 2) The "Temple" here is the Church Visible on earth:
  - (i) part left out
  - (ii) part worthy of inclusion
- 3) God sees which churches are/are not part of the true "Invisible" Church.
- 4) 3 marks of the True Church  
**OBSERVE:** God allows a part of the church to be "trodden under foot" in this life.

**2. THE CHURCH IN A CONDITION OF BLESSING:** v.3-6

- 1) These "witnesses": the Christian ministry:
  - (i) the work of "prophesying" = preaching  
**OBSERVE:** This the supreme work of the ministry.
  - (ii) "olive trees": nourish men's souls with truth.
  - (iii) "candlesticks": lights in this world
- 2) They are precious to God – "fire"  
**APPLICATION:** Do not touch God's anointed servants.

- 3) They have authority, who stood firm for God.  
**APPLICATION:** When the church is strong, truth prevails.

**3. THE CHURCH IN DECLINE:** v.7-10

- 1) all churches tend to decline – generation change.
- 2) Satanic power here – to destroy the church.
- 3) "kill them" = the power of the truth injured:
  - (i) by error
  - (ii) by persecution
  - (iii) by division
- 4) the world loves to see truth dead – will not bury them = loves to make sport of the truth.  
**ILLUSTRATION:**
  - (i) Samson
  - (ii) Around the Cross
- 5) it is joy to the world to suppose the gospel is dead – "gifts".  
**APPLICATION:** Truth "torments" people (Explain: conscience)

**4. THE CHURCH REVIVING AGAIN:** v.11-13

- 1) "3 ½ days": God's time now come to bring truth back to life.
- 2) the agent in revival: "the Spirit of life".
- 3) a new work of God is like a resurrection:  
**ILLUSTRATION:** the disciples on and after Pentecost their power to preach / boldness /
- 4) the "fear" which falls on men, leading either to –
  - (i) repentance or
  - (ii) restraint

- 5) the "ascent" of gospel truth: it affects every aspect of life on earth  
**ILLUSTRATION**: Luther, Calvin + others.
- 6) faithful witnesses will be visibly rewarded in glory.

### **CONCLUSION**

Our deep need of a powerful revival in our day:

**ILLUSTRATION**: 1857-60.

<p><b>PSALM</b></p> <p><b>44: 1 - 6</b></p> <p><b>85: 1 - 7</b></p> <p><b>102<sup>2</sup>: 13 - 18</b></p>
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