

LOVE IS AN APOCALYPSE

Review: Revelation is the Greek word "apocalypse". Meaning:

- > To pull back the curtain.
- > To suddenly open up what is hidden or closed.
- > To break through into a greater vision or reality.

▶ THE WORLD NEEDS AN APOCALYPSE OF LOVE!

TODAY'S QUESTIONS: Is our church a living revelation of the love of Jesus?
Are we living everyday as an apocalypse of His love?

SERIES QUESTION: Why the revelation?

SERIES THEME: We are the people of the apocalypse living everyday in the revelation of Jesus Christ

- Revelation 1:10

TODAY'S THEME: We are the Church of the apocalypse, living everyday as the revelation of the love of Jesus Christ

TODAY'S TEXT: Revelation 2:1-7

- > Revelation is the epic love story!

I. LOVE COMES TO _____ US

A. LOVE COMES TO WIN THE HEART OF ANOTHER

- > Love _____ the heart.
- > Love is aggressive, persistent, patient, yet powerful!

- Song of Songs 8:6, 7

- > Love will not rest until the one they love belongs to them.

▶ Our love is our _____! We belong to each other!

B. JESUS CAME TO LOVE AND WIN US AS _____!

- > His love _____ us before He created us.

- Ephesians 1:3-5

- > His love brought Him to this earth to battle for us.

- John 3:16

- > His love carried Him to His cross and death for us.

- I John 3:16

- Revelation 1:18

- > His love is always _____ out to His Church.

- Revelation 1:4-7a

- > His hand is reaching to touch and _____ us as His own.

- Revelation 1:20; 2:1

▶ The hand that holds the Church is the hand that _____ the universe and holds the _____ of humanity.

- > The revelation is the _____ battle and the victory of God's love over every power of evil.

Question: Have you said yes to His love? Is this your identity?

Yes Jesus, I surrender to your love. I am Yours!

II. LOVE COMES TO BE _____ US - vv. 1-3

A. TO LOVE IS TO LIVE AND WALK _____

- > Love seeks to be _____.
- > Love can't stand to be distant.
- > Love loves to _____ and be known.
- > Love needs intimacy.

B. JESUS COMES TO LIVE AND _____ WITH US

Question: Where is Jesus?

- Revelation 2:1; 1:12,13

- > Jesus is in the Church!
- > Jesus is walking among us today!

- Matthew 28:20

- Hebrews 13:5b,8

- > Jesus knows us personally and loves us _____!

- Revelation 2:2, 3 (also 2:9; 2:13; etc.)

- > He knows all we are doing.
- > He _____ all that we are feeling.

▶ To be loved by Jesus is to be known by Jesus!

- I Corinthians 8:3

▶ We exist to know Him and make Him known.

Question: Have you opened your heart to Jesus today? Have you received His love and loved Him in return?

Yes, Jesus, I welcome your love today! I know I am Yours!

III. LOVE COMES TO _____ US - vv.4,5

A. TO LOVE IS TO CONFRONT!

- ▶ To be forsaken or forgotten is love's greatest fear.
 - > To forget our first love is a tragedy!
 - > First = first in importance, primary, highest and best

Question: How much pain and disaster is caused by husbands and wives who forget their "first" love for their partner and family?

- > To forget is to _____ to forsake!

- ▶ Revelation 2:5a is a word for every Christian serious about marriage, family and relationships!

B. BECAUSE JESUS LOVES US HE CONFRONTS US!

- ▶ The Church in Ephesus was doing everything right.
 - >
 - >
 - >

- ▶ But here is the revelation: THEY HAD LOST THEIR LOVE FOR JESUS!

- ▶ Note Jesus' strong words for the Church! For us!
 - > We must _____ our first love.
 - > We must _____ and return to our first love.

Questions: Did you forget to love Jesus today? Did we repent and return to Him? Will we forsake our false loves and lovers?

Yes Jesus, I repent, I love you Jesus. I am yours!

CONCLUDING QUESTION: What happens if the Church (our Church) is not a living revelation of the love of Jesus?

- ▶ Note Jesus' loving and yet harsh words.

• v.5b

Question: What does Jesus want from His Church?

• John 13:34, 35

- ▶ The Church that loses its love is useless to Jesus!
 - > When the love is gone, the _____ has gone out.

Are we ready to love Jesus? To be loved by Jesus? To love like Jesus?

~ LIFEGROUP STUDY GUIDE ~

- ▶ Everyone loves love stories. (It's St. Valentine's Day this week!)

Opening: Share some of your love stories.

- > When did you realize you were in love?
- > Was it "love at first sight"?
- > Who proposed? Where? When?

- ▶ Pastor Barry's sermon title was "Love is an Apocalypse".
 - > What do you think this means?

Read **Revelation 1:4 – 8 & 19:6-8**. Discuss how Revelation is an epic love story.

Read **Revelation 1:12, 13, 20 & 2:1**.

- > Where is Jesus? What is He doing?
- > How does Jesus reveal himself to the Church in Ephesus?

Read **Revelation 2:2,3** (note also 2:9, 13, 19; 3:1b, 8, 15).

- > What is the recurring theme in these verses?
- > What does this show us about Jesus and the Church?

Read **Revelation 2:4, 5**

- > Discuss ways we might lose our first love for Jesus.

- ▶ Jesus gives us three steps to recover our first love.
 - #1 – Remember (consider and think carefully about) it.
 - #2 – Repent (turn back, turn around, change).
 - #3 – Re-do it.

Close by sharing some of your love stories with Jesus.

- > When did you first know He loved you?
- > What was your first love for Jesus like?

Pray together for our "first love" to be restored.