

WHY THE REVELATION?

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

- ▶ Revelation is the Greek word "apocalypse". Meaning:
 - > To pull back the _____.
 - > To suddenly open up what is _____.
 - > To _____ through into a greater vision or reality.

Question → Do we need "The revelation of Jesus Christ"?

Answer → We need the revelation of Jesus to face the _____ and live as Christians _____!

TODAY'S THEME: The Revelation of Jesus Christ – read it; hear it; see it!

TODAY'S TEXT: Revelation 1:1-12a

SERIES QUESTION: Why the revelation?

I. WE NEED TO _____ IT - v.3

Question → Do you have a problem reading Revelation?

A. READ IT AS THE _____ OF GOD

- ▶ This is Bible.
 - > We can't leave it out!

• 22:18, 19

Question → Why the blessing and the warning?

- ▶ We cannot _____ without the Revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - > From beginning to end, the Bible is about Jesus, the revelation of God.

• John 14:6, 9

- ▶ Reading the Bible is _____ of the true reality of God.

• 1:8

• 22:13

> There is nothing added in the Book of Revelation that is not found in the rest of the Bible.

B. READ IT AS A _____ TO THE CHURCH

- ▶ These are the words to a pastor for his 7 churches.

Question → Why the Revelation?

Answer → The Church needs an apocalypse!

- > We need the Word of God:
 - to rip back the curtain.
 - to unveil the Living God.
 - to glorify God above all human power.

Questions → Why the revelation? Why the Word of God?

II. WE NEED TO _____ IT - v.3

- ▶ Everything we hear affects our _____.
 - > It's apocalyptic!

Question → Why is there an epidemic of emotional and mental problems in our society?

Answer → It has everything to do with what we are listening to!

A. HEAR IT AS THE _____ OF GOD

- ▶ We must not just read the Bible with our heads in an intellectual way, we must also _____ it with our hearts.

• 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22

- ▶ The real danger to the Church, then and now, is not the obvious _____ attacks. It is apathy and lack of vigilance to the _____ corruption and compromise seeping into our hearts and lives.

B. HEAR THE _____ VOICE OF GOD

- ▶ The Revelation is prophecy. v.3
 - > Prophecy in the Bible is not just foretelling the future but the forceful "forth-telling" voice of God.

• I Cor. 14:3

- > Prophecy is not fortune telling or tidy timelines for the future.
- > Prophecy is the _____ with open ears and hearts _____ the voice of Jesus in the power of the Spirit.

• Rev. 19:10b

Questions → What voices are we listening to? Do they make us worry more or worship Jesus more?

Questions → Why the revelation? Why prophecy?

III. WE NEED TO _____ IT (HIM) - v.7

A. REVELATION IS SEEING

- ▶ We don't think in words, we think in mental pictures.
 - > We were created in the _____ of God with the creative power of imagination!
 - > This is what apocalypses are.
 - Powerful, emotional images in our minds.

Question → How can we not be overwhelmed, devastated, or emotionally seduced by the apocalypses of our day?

- > The Christians in John's day were constantly facing the overwhelming imagery of Rome and false gods.

Question → What can conquer the apocalyptic imagery of our day?

- ▶ The images of our day are huge and powerful.

Answer → The Revelation of Jesus Christ! The apocalypse of Jesus is greater than the most overwhelming imagery of our day!

B. REVELATION IS SEEING _____!!

- ▶ Beyond all the imagery is the overwhelming _____ of the revelation of Jesus Christ!

CONCLUSION:

"Look, He is coming..."

"Look I AM coming soon!"

"Yes, I am coming soon!"

- Revelation 1:7; 22:7, 12, 20

~ LIFEGROUP STUDY GUIDE ~

Opening Questions: When you hear the word apocalypse what comes to your mind?

▶ Pastor Barry's theme for this series is

"We are people of the apocalypse, living in the revelation of Jesus Christ".

- > What do you think when you read that?

Read **Revelation 1:1-3** replacing the word "revelation" with "apocalypse".

Listen as someone reads **Revelation 1:4-8** out loud.

- > Were you blessed? How were you blessed?

Eugene Peterson writes, "I do not read the Revelation to get additional information about the life of faith in Christ. Everything in the Revelation can be found in the previous sixty-five books of the Bible."

– Reversed Thunder, p. xi

- > Why then do we read the Revelation?

Peterson continues, "I read the Revelation not to get more information but to revive my imagination." "The power to wake us up is the most obvious use of the Revelation." Ibid, pp.xi,xii

- > Does the Church need to be more awake today?
- > How does Revelation wake us up?

Darrell Johnson writes that Revelation, "seeks to set the present in the light of unseen realities of the future" and more importantly "seeks to set the present in the light of the invisible realities of the present."

– Discipleship on the Edge, p.26

Re-read **Revelation 1:1-8**

- > How do these words change your present reality?
- > How do these words change your future reality?

Suggestion: Read some of Revelation out loud every day this week.