

SERMON NOTES

1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ, Revelation 1:1
 - a. Notice the references to the word: word of God, words of this prophecy, what is written in it, John 1:1, Revelation 1:5
 - b. JESUS is the revelation; He is the ONE who freed us from our sins, Revelation 1:13-16
 - c. Through out this revelation, John sees Jesus on different levels from different perspectives. We must see JESUS above all things. Revelation 1:17-18
2. The Church at Ephesus: Stopped Loving Jesus, Revelation 2:4
 - Works without the Word leads you astray
3. The Church at Smyrna: Suffering Leads to Jesus, Revelation 2:10
 - a. Smyrna and Philadelphia are the only two churches that nothing negative is mentioned; Jesus isn't looking for the negative, but He loves you too much to overlook it
 - b. The devil tries to get us to give up, but Jesus gives us the power to conquer. Revelation 2:11, Romans 8:37
4. The Church at Pergamum: Satanic teaching accepted, Revelation 2:13-15
 - a. Any teaching that goes against the Word is satanic; be careful what teaching you follow; you may be religious but in the church of Satan, Revelation 2:16
5. The Church at Thyatira: Sensual practices tolerated, Revelation 2:20
 - a. A Jezebel spirit always attacks the love of Jesus with the lust of the world. Failure to try such spirits leads to tolerating their practices.
 - b. You will either rule over false spirits or they will rule over you!
6. The Church at Sardis: Soiled Garments, Revelation 3:2, 4
 - Spiritual slumber leads to soiled garments; a reputation for being spiritually alive does not reflect truth; only those following JESUS are alive!
7. The Church at Philadelphia: Seizing the Crown, Revelation 3:10-11
 - Keeping the WORD keeps you close to JESUS so He can reward rather than rebuke.
8. The Church at Laodicea: Spit Out for Lukewarm, Revelation 3:16
 - Focusing on earthly status blinds us to the status of our spiritual condition. The potential is great but the productivity is small.



GROUP DISCUSSION

1. John, the son of Zebedee and the disciple whom Jesus loved, is the author of Revelation, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He was exiled to the isle of Patmos (Aegean Sea) from the city of Ephesus to punish him for preaching Jesus. It's ironic that Jesus uses this time to give him this apokalupsis (Revelation) to show John (and all followers of Jesus) what is and is to come so we can see it from His perspective. Throughout the book of Revelation, if you'll keep looking for Jesus, then He will make sense of all of the scrolls, trumpets, bowls, and details. Go back and read Revelation 1. Describe/List all the things that are explained about JESUS. What one thing stands out most?
2. The word angel simply means messenger. The messages that are to come in the next two chapters are written to the seven pastors of the seven churches. The number seven reflects completion or perfection. The rebukes and the rewards that will be mentioned cover the extent of the problems and the praises of the churches throughout this time. Notice that Jesus gives the WORD to the pastors to relay to His churches. What is the significance of the role that a pastor serves? How should a church check the word that a pastor gives to them? Read Acts 17:11-21. How did the church at Berea handle the WORD?
3. Read through Revelation 2 and 3. Make a list of all the good things that Jesus says about the seven churches and the negative things that Jesus points out. Which of the good things are you practicing? How can you guard your heart to keep do those things? What are some of the negative things that you are convicted about? Read James 1:22-25. How are we supposed to treat the Word and what it speaks to us?
4. In chapters 2 and 3, devil/Satan are mentioned six times (the number of humanity). If you are not looking/following Jesus then you are following Satan. There is no in between ground. Read Revelation 2:13. What does it mean, "where Satan's throne is" and "where Satan dwells." Read John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Ephesians 2:2; II Corinthians 4:4. Understanding the power of the enemy, we must follow the only one that can free us from his power: JESUS. Now read Revelation 1:5-6. What truth/power is given to us as followers of JESUS?
5. Read the description of JESUS in Revelation 1 and then find those descriptions when written to the churches in chapters 2-3. For example: Revelation 2:8 "The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life" reflect Revelation 1:8. It gives credibility that JESUS understands the persecutions that we have to endure because He did, even to death. Now, write out the other six churches examples. The pattern is that anything that we are facing, Jesus has conquered it and can shepherd us through those valleys. Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

