



"DEAR CHURCH"

A SERIES ON THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

"DEAR CHURCH", PART 13 THE END HAS COME

October 20, 2019

Pastor Randy Remington

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

"We are compelled by our desires. We chase down those persons, or things, that we love. And in the process we are transformed into their image. That's why idols are so destructive. If they capture our hearts, we begin to become like them."

—Pastor Randy

MAIN TEXT(S):

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever." The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!" **(Revelation 19:1-5)**

*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords." **(Revelation 19:11-16)***

*"And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years." **(Revelation 20:1-2)***

*"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever." **(Revelation 20:10)***

*"Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." **(Revelation 19:6-8)***

*"And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small." **(Revelation 19:17-18)***

*Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire." **(Revelation 20:11-15)***

Supportive Text(s):

*"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." **(Genesis 3:15)***

*"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God." **(2 Corinthians 1:20)***

*"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." **(John 1:12-13)***

SUMMARY

God always intended the Revelation to be hopeful. He's dealing with a creation that's almost immediately twisted and broken by sin. He could have just ended it. Or He could have just started over. In chapter 3:15 of Genesis, God promises redemption though. He promises to send a warrior king who will put all things right. The nature of the problem, the sin? It is an unholy, devoted love of anything and everything apart from God. It is idolatry and it reproduces after its own kind.

The warrior did come but he came in a way that was unexpected, in humility and dying on a Cross. But his victory is assured. We see that in Jesus' Resurrection, Ascension, and his promised return. Revelation picks up that promise and we see the victory of Jesus come to fruition in its latter chapters 19-22. The contrast that we see illustrated in a warrior who comes as a humble baby is echoed in four contrasts: The Bride (the Church) and the Prostitute (Babylon, the seduction of an unholy kingdom); the Bridegroom (Jesus the Lord) and the Devil (Satan the Deceiver); the Wedding Supper of the Lamb and the Great Supper of God (are you an invited guest or the main course after the final battle?); the Book and the Books (the Book of Life or the books of works that invites judgement at the Great Throne).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. If you could ask John (the author of Revelation) one question about his book, what would it be?
2. What has been the thing that has stood out to you most about this Revelation series thus far?
3. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
4. What contrasts do you see in the world? How do you see good and evil colliding?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What do you see in the Revelation passages above that contrasts joy, expectation, and the difficulty of God's preparation for His Son's arrival?
2. What strikes you as odd from these passages in Revelation 19-20?
3. What gives you hope and encouragement in these passages?
4. What do you think John means when he writes that the bride makes herself ready (19:6-8)?
5. How does the division of good and evil strike you? What about the Book of Life captures your attention and why? How does the John 1 passage inform your view(s) and why?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Pastor Randy emphasized our human capacity to choose as a fundamental freedom. Where do you see that expressed in a positive way in our culture? Where has it veered into a radical autonomy that's not good?
2. How do you see the cosmic struggle of good versus evil manifesting today, even in everyday life?
3. Pastor Randy spoke of much more we will discover about Jesus. How does that shape your view of how to speak of Jesus in today's culture? Do most people—Christian or not—think they already know all there is to know about Jesus, and if so, why?

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**

4. Where do you see Satan, the deceiver, at work in the world? Does he mostly work in supernatural ways or are his schemes more subtle, and why did you answer as you did?
5. Where do you see righteousness flourishing? Where do you rejoice “like the roar of rushing waters” and why?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What do you see as your role given the unfolding victory of Jesus?
2. What makes you excited or anxious about Jesus’ ultimate victory as set forth in Revelation 19-20?
3. Where does your confidence to stand with Jesus in that last day come from? Do you approach that day with confidence or fear and why?
4. How would you describe the book of the Revelation to someone who isn’t a Christian and why would you do it that way?
5. What are you most excited about as you read these last chapters of the Revelation?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Given what’s revealed to be happening on a cosmic scale, how will you pray this week?
2. Describe how you want this series, this message, and your own reading of the Revelation, to shape you in the coming week.
3. Who do you need to speak with regarding what you’re learning? A pastor with some clarifying questions? A loved one who needs to hear about Jesus and His Kingdom?

NOTE: On the following page (for most weeks) you will find a set of sermon notes created by Charissa Burns, an artist who calls B4 home. We include them purely for your enjoyment and encouragement, courtesy of Charissa. You can follow her on the ‘Gram @charissaburnsstudio

