

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Revelation 1

Close your eyes and picture Jesus. What do you see?

- The baby Jesus
- The miracle-working Jesus
- The suffering Jesus
- The resurrected Jesus

How many pictured Jesus in the way **Revelation 1:12-16** describes Him?

- What would that even look like?

Even with all the description given, our perception is different based upon our interpretation/understanding of it. Consider these different depictions.

We must be cautious of how we image God/Jesus, because once we image Him in our minds we limit Him by our human depiction of Him!

Remember the 2nd commandment – ***“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above...”***

We need to allow God’s Word to inform us about who God/Jesus truly is, without relying on our human capacity to fully comprehend Him.

Idolatry is not just worshipping other things as god, it can also be worshipping a wrong perception of the One true God.

Many of you have heard me say that I wouldn’t preach a sermon series on the book of Revelation, but I have decided to preach a portion of it because of what it reveals about Jesus in a way that we often miss!

Jesus is more than a baby, a man, a suffering servant, a resurrected body, He is the ***“Alpha and the Omega”, “the beginning and the end”, the one “who was, and is and is to come, the almighty.”***

Jesus is more than what he has already done, He is also what He has yet to do!

“Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.” – Vs. 5-7

We are called to live, not only in response to what Jesus has already accomplished, but also with great anticipation of what He will do when He returns once again as our Judge, Conqueror & King!

Even in the celebration of the sacrament this morning, this needed balance is revealed. We look back, we look to the present, and we look to the future.

If we only look back we will miss what He is doing today. If we only look to the present, we will miss what He will do in the future!

We must live as Christians with both hindsight and foresight!

The book of Revelation can help us as individual Christians, & as the Church of Jesus Christ, to live more faithfully in response to our Savior, Lord & King!

God has given us His written Word, to teach us all we need to know about the incarnate Word (Jesus), to faithfully live in response to Him in our lives.

We can’t ignore any part of Scripture, even the parts we can’t fully understand, b/c even with our lack of understanding God is being revealed!

“All tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him.” Why? Because we are sinners in the presence of Holiness, but also because of how beyond our comprehension & grasp, in our humanness, He is now being revealed to be!

Yet each one of us will be held accountable, before Jesus our eternal judge, for what we have done with the revelation of Him that we’ve been given!

I may not understand all of what Scripture reveals about the person of Jesus Christ, or about the details of all that is still yet to come in His second coming, **but I am called to live in response to what He has revealed!**

Revelation is about revealing! And the main point of this book is to reveal more to us the person & work of Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest & King!

And secondly, how we are to live in response to, & in great anticipation of this Jesus that has been revealed, even if not yet understood & experienced.

Therefore, let us look to what the Spirit of God has said to the church about how to live out faith, **keeping in balance the “already” & “not yet” reality of it!**

The 7 letters to the 7 churches in Chs. 2-3 of Revelation will serve as our guide.

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