

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

SERIES INFO

Revelation Series Overview:

The Revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ drafted by the apostle John, to whom Jesus gave this message through an angel, is a “peeling back” of what is to take place at the end of the biblical story so that it might be a source of hope for Christians amid trouble and suffering. Apocalyptic literature draws much symbolism from the Old Testament narrative, such as the books of Daniel and Ezekiel. There is a great deal of figurative and symbolic language throughout. Correct interpretation is very important in understanding clearly who Jesus is and what is to take place. While some things are left to mystery, much of what is in the book of Revelation can adequately and carefully be understood with accurate interpretation. This is not a book of mysteries. While the text is complex, it is full of truths that every disciple of Jesus should learn and practice. Let’s take courage and find new hope in our faith in Christ as we face a world of trouble and suffering.

PERSONAL FUN FACTS

Have you ever suddenly realized something important about yourself had slowly changed without you noticing it at first?

TAKEAWAYS

What was a major takeaway moment during the sermon this week?

DISCUSSION

1. Smyrna

Scripture: Revelation 2:8-11

Smyrna was wealthy, beautiful, and loyal to Rome. They were deeply committed to emperor (Caesar) worship. If you refused to worship the emperor, it was seen as politically dangerous, socially rebellious, and economically threatening. This is what the Christians faced in Smyrna: the possibilities of execution for their faith in Christ, poverty (as Christ-followers they couldn’t find a job), slander, and overall persecution. They are the only church where there is no rebuke from Jesus—only a challenge and encouragement to remain faithful.

1) Why are comfort and ease sometimes dangerous for the church?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION CONTINUED

2) Why does Jesus call this church, which is in poverty, rich?

3) What would faithfulness under pressure look like in our culture?

- Describe a moment when following Jesus cost you something.

2. Pergamum

Scripture: Revelation 2:412-17

Pergamum was also a city that worshipped the emperor, had a myriad of pagan temples, and was a source for political power in the region. Jesus said about this city, "It is where Satan has his throne." Likely, He is referring to Caesar and the idolatrous systems propagated by Rome and its power structures that politicized spiritual allegiance to the emperor. The church in Pergamum had remained loyal to Jesus, even after persecution and even martyrdom. Yet, something dangerous had entered the church. Compromise.

1) What modern cultural pressures tempt Christians toward compromise and accommodation?

2) How will we know if Christianity and the gospel become "Jesus plus something else?"

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION CONTINUED

3. Thyatira

Scripture: Revelation 2:18-29

If you wanted to grow economically in Thyatira, you needed to be a part of pagan feasts, idol worship, and immoral practices. Christians in Thyatira faced unbelievable pressure and their compromising sometimes meant survival. The symbolic figure that Jesus talks about here is “Jezebel,” which represents a “false spiritual influence.” She “was teaching” compromise is totally acceptable, immorality is compatible with discipleship, and participation in an idolatrous culture is spiritually harmless. In this case, the church didn’t merely tolerate sin, it began to shape its theology around sin and justify it spiritually. If Pergamum tolerated compromise, Thyatira legitimized and normalized it. They re-articulated what it meant to follow Jesus.

1) Why is false teaching, especially moral compromise, often attractive and spiritually persuasive?

2) How can Christians speak truth and call people to repentance without becoming harsh or self-righteous? Why do we avoid this?

APPLICATION

- Where am I most vulnerable to compromise? Am I slowly drifting in any area of my life that would compromise my relationship and my following Jesus?
- What currently has the greatest influence over how I think, believe, feel, and the decisions I make?”
- **This week, spend at least 10 minutes examining your heart and ask yourself, “Is there any place in my life where I have rewritten discipleship? Have I subtly reshaped what following Jesus looks like? Have I lowered the call to holiness to fit modern comfort?**

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You who walk among the churches, search our hearts. Where we are fearful, strengthen us. Where we are compromising, correct us. Where we are drifting, call us home. Teach us what it truly means to follow You faithfully in our generation. In Jesus' name. Amen.