

The Revelation of Jesus.

Week #2: The Risen Christ

January 14, 2018

The Book of Revelation describes the end of God's story. It is a book full of imagery that has caused much speculation, confusion and division in the Church. But at its very core, Revelation carries a simple and powerful message: "I, the Risen Christ, am returning soon - so be ready for my return." Of course, within that message is an equally powerful one that keeps our commitment to Jesus strong during times of great uncertainty: Christ has defeated death, and upon His return will end the madness of our world as we know it. So until then, we wait, but do so knowing fully that Christ's victory is assured ... and His victory is also our victory.

As we study the first chapters of Revelation, I ask you to prayerfully study and pray each week in order to be assured that the Risen Christ whom we worship is on the move. And be ready.

Study Questions: #2 - The Risen Christ

1. Read Revelation 1:1-8. It is clear that Revelation is given to us by God, through Jesus.
 - Why is this of vital importance, based upon Christ's words to his disciples in Acts 6:1-8?
 - Describe the link between sharing Jesus with others well, and seeing what the Lord is up to as He pulls back the veil and shows you the real world.
2. Read Revelation 1:9-11.
 - Why was John on Patmos? In light of what was happening around him and beyond him, how might he have been viewing life and coping with the events of his advanced age?
 - What role does our spiritual condition play in our ability to receive instruction from God?
 - When have you been living on your own Patmos?
 - When have you been "in the Spirit"?
 - What do you need from others when you when you find yourself "on Patmos"?
 - Who is "on Patmos" that you know today? What can you do for them?
3. Read Revelation 1:12-16.
 - How do these images inform us about Christ? (see also Daniel 7 & 10 and Ezekiel 1)
 - What do the seven lampstands and seven stars in Christ's hand represent (you must read verses 19-20).
4. Read Revelation 1:17-18.
 - What does the fact that Christ holds the keys of death & Hades mean for you?
 - When you think about Jesus and talk with Him, do you picture the Lord in His Risen glory, or in His humbled earthly state? What difference does this make
 - How has the world changed since Jesus arose from the dead?
5. Using the analogy of a light fixture to describe the spiritual condition of New Life Church, what are we like at this moment:
 - Spotlight; chandelier; match; sunshine; other?
6. "Christ is Risen - He is risen indeed!"
 - Commit this week to two essential things:
 - First, train your mind to see Jesus in His risen, glorified state - full of power, glory & love.
 - Second, pray that the Spirit of Jesus will reveal to you what is really going on around you as you pay attention.