



Leader

9/10 - Revelation 1:1-8

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Let's read the primary text. Before we begin, let's gather some context. What genre of literature is this? Who is the author? Who is the intended audience? What is the purpose?

Genre(s): Epistle/Prophecy/Apocalypse

Author: John the Apostle (Son of Zebedee) is recording visions given to him by Jesus Christ through an angel.

Audience: Written to the seven churches of Asia Minor (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea)

Purpose: To encourage his readers by assuring them that Satan and his followers will be defeated and that do will vindicate His people.

3. Our culture has a fascination with apocalyptic events. What does apocalypse mean?

Apocalypse is derived from the Greek noun *apokalypsis*, meaning "revelation, disclosure, unveiling"---that is, the disclosure of unseen heavenly or future realities (Crossway ESV Study Bible).

4. This book is titled Revelation. What is it a revelation of?

The book is a revelation of its divine author Jesus Christ. It is a divine prediction of future events but serves also as a diagnosis of the present state.

5. This passage contains the first of seven blessings in the book of Revelation. What is it and what are the three key components?

V.3. Blessed are those who read aloud, hear, keep.

6. Verses 4-7 present some mysterious ideas (seven spirits, firstborn from the dead). What do these things mean?

"Seven spirits" - the Holy Spirit is represented here as seven spirits, a number of perfection and as a representation of the seven churches.

"Firstborn of the dead" - Jesus was the first to triumph over death. Anyone who is in Christ will also triumph over death.

7. This may seem elementary, but how exactly did Jesus free us from our sins through his blood (v.5)?
The chasm (or debt) that was created by sin between us and God was eliminated (or paid) by Jesus Christ on the cross. God killed the sin of man by placing it on Jesus and pouring his wrath out upon it. Inversely, Jesus credits us with His righteousness in a beautiful exchange. The wonderful reality takes place when an individual places their faith in Jesus (Justification).

8. What attributes of God are present in this text?

Example: God is eternal. God is Spirit. God is Other. God is a Unity.

9. Now that we have begun this journey in Revelation, what have you learned so far and is there anything that has caused a shift in your understanding?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]

- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.

HOMEWORK: Meditate on our weekly "Fighter Verse" - Matthew 5:7-10. How did last week's verse affect you? Did it cause you to pause or change anything as you progressed through the week?