



Leader

9/17 - Revelation 1:9-20

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. In verse 9, John expresses that he is a partner in the tribulation. What tribulation is he talking about?

Christian's in Rome were facing tremendous persecution at that time (it is likely that even Paul and Peter have died).

3. John finds himself on the island of Patmos. What is his explanation for being there?

John was exiled to Patmos because of his witness for Jesus and the increasing hostility towards Christians by the hand of Emperor Domitian (or Nero, depending on dating).

4. In verse 10, John mentions being in the Spirit. What do you think he means by this? What is simply an intense prayer time?

It is clear that John experienced a radical manifestation of the Holy Spirit, which only a handful had experienced in the Bible. This type of experience often led to prophetic visions that were from God and superintended by the Holy Spirit. This experience was not normal, it was other.

5. Verses 12-16 begin to paint a picture of Jesus through the use of simile. Our culture tends to use these verses to promote a Jesus that fits their racial makeup. Is this the emphasis of this passage? What is?

Each of these unique identifiers aid in capturing the glory of Jesus, not necessarily a physical portrait:

- hair like white wool = infinite wisdom
- feet like burnished bronze = will crush opponents
- eyes like a flame of fire = can see all
- voice like roaring waters = divine power
- two-edged sword = swift judgment
- face like shining sun = overwhelming source of light

6. John responds to Jesus' presence by falling down at his feet; collapsing as if dead. Is this a normal reaction to the presence of God? Are there any other situations like this in the Bible?

Collapsing before God is a common theme:

Genesis 17:3 records that Abram *collapsed* when God spoke to him.

[Joshua 5:14,15](#) tells us that Joshua *collapsed* when he experienced the presence of the Lord. [Ezekiel 1:28 and 3:23](#) say that Ezekiel *collapsed* when the glory of the Lord appeared to him. [Daniel 8:17 and 10:15](#) state that Daniel *collapsed* on the ground when he encountered the glory of God.

[Matthew 17:6](#) records that when God's glory was manifested to *Peter, James, and John*, all three of these men *collapsed* to the ground.

[Acts 9:4 and 26:14](#) reveal that Paul *collapsed* to the earth when he saw Christ on the road to Damascus.

7. How do you approach Jesus?

[Dialogue]

8. What can you conclude about Jesus' power according to this text?

Jesus is Lord over all, including death. All will fall at His feet, just as John did. Jesus also displays that He has the ability to restrain His power and authority in gentleness towards those who love him and call upon His name ("But, he laid his right hand on me saying, Fear not").

9. How does this text renew your understanding of Jesus?

[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 5:11-12. How did last week's verse affect you? Did it cause you to pause or change anything as you progressed through the week?