



Leader

02/04 - Revelation 4 and 5

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 our primary text. For recap, where do we find ourselves in Revelation? What has transpired thus far?

John finds himself exiled on the island of Patmos when he receives a visit and a vision from Jesus. In the opening chapter, he is told by Jesus to "write the things you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this" (Rev 1:19). He then writes Jesus's "diagnosis" of the seven churches found in Asia Minor (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea).

3. Together can we recall the affirmation/rebuke of each of these churches?

- **Ephesus** - Ensured strong doctrine, but lost their love for Christ and others.
- **Smyrna** - Approaching suffering, Jesus calls them to not fear.
- **Pergamum** - Many have accepted false teaching (Nicolaitans)
- **Thyatira** - Had love for Christ and others, but tolerated false teaching (Jezebel)
- **Sardis** - The dead church where Jesus provides no commendation
- **Philadelphia** - The Great Commission church who held fast to the word.
- **Laodicea** - The church that was neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm.

4. What imagery do we see in chapter 4? Let's walk through each one to gain a better understanding of each of these.

[Below are some reliable scholarly interpretations]

- **Speaking like a trumpet** - used commonly in scripture for Jesus. Trumpets often signify royalty. Ultimately when Jesus speaks, there will be no mistaking it.
- **Jasper and Carnelian (Red Stones)** - signifies holiness/purity (Jasper) and wrath/judgement (Carnelian). These types of stone were also found on priestly garments.
- **Emerald-like rainbow** - likely signifies God's covenant faithfulness (Noah's rainbow)
- **Twenty-Four elders clothed in white w/ crowns** - likely refers to those redeemed by Jesus
- **Seven Spirits of God** - The number 7 is often used as the number of perfection, signifying the perfection of the Holy Spirit.
- **Sea of Glass** - Seas are usually depicted as negative, however this beautiful sea and has been stilled by God and is tranquil

- **Creatures w/eyes and wings** - eyes and wings typically refer to God's "all-knowing" (omniscient) and "all-seeing" (omnipresent) attributes.

5. In chapter 5, what did one of the elders say to John? Why is Jesus worthy?

One of the elders told John to "weep no more: behold...." Verse 9 answers why Jesus is worthy.

6. What happens at the conclusion of each of these chapters? What can we learn from this?

These creatures and those redeemed cast their crowns down before the Lord, fall and worship Him. All created things recognize Jesus as Lord. We must also view Jesus in this way, eager to lay down our crowns before the one who is worthy.

7. In the most general sense, how would you explain what is taking place in these two chapters?

[Dialogue] - We get a glimpse into heaven. All of creation beholds the wonder and splendor of Jesus, the only one who is worthy to open the scroll.

8. Any closing thoughts concerning this text?

[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.