

Series: Rev'd Up

Sermon: Read and Heed

Main Scripture: Revelation 1:1-3 (NASB)

Supporting Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:7; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:7

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Message Takeaway: Christ will return. God will triumph over evil as justice is served. We will be rewarded for our faith. Jesus wins!

Supporting Thoughts:

- **7 rules of the road as we delve into this series**
 - 1. Don't be a theological jerk.**
 - 2. Be like the Bereans.** (In Acts 17:11) Think critically, not dogmatically.
 - 3. Be ready for the unusual.**
 - 4. Restrain your imagination.**
 - 5. Ask the following questions as you read/study this book:**
 - Observe:** What does it say?
 - Interpret:** What does it mean?
 - Correlate:** How does it fit with other parts of the Bible?
 - Apply:** How does it work in our lives? Sometimes applications will be concrete, other times, more theological and generic.
 - 6. Beware of what you watch on YouTube.**
 - 7. God promises a great blessing to those who study this book (Rev 1:3; 22:7).**
- **Revelation's 3-fold purpose: 1) To reveal the full identity of Christ 2) to give warning; 3) to give hope.**
- **Revelation's 3-Part Outline found in Revelation 1:19: 1) What has taken place in the past (Ch.1); 2) What is taking place in the present (in John's time with the 7 churches; Ch. 2-3); 3) What is taking place in after Jesus' Revelation to John (Chapters 4–22)**
- **Four main approaches to interpretation:**
 - 1. Preterist:** The events described took place in the 1st Century and majority were fulfilled before AD 70.
 - 2. Historicist.** The 7 churches to whom the letter's addressed represent different stages in church history.
 - 3. Idealist.** Combination of preterist and futurist interpretations, overlapping of events.
 - 4. Futurist.** Chronological view. The events of Revelation are applicable today yet await a future, end-times fulfillment during the tribulation and beyond. Chaps 4-22 will happen in the future. Those chapters literally and symbolically depict actual people and events yet to appear on the world scene. Literal interpretation yet also emphasis on symbology. **We take this view at New Life Fellowship.**
- Revelation: *apokalypsis* So what?
- Rev 1:1 The word for "soon" is not a matter of "when" but a matter of certainty.
- Blessed = *makarios* So what?

- **7 Beatitudes of Revelation: Blessed are those who:**
 1. Read, hear, and heed the prophecy (1:3)
 2. Die in the Lord (14:13)
 3. Stay alert and keep their clothes (16:15)
 4. Are invited to the wedding feast of Christ (19:9)
 5. Have a part in the first resurrection (20:6)
 6. Heed the words of the prophecy of this book (22:7)
 7. Wash their robes (22:14)
- Revelation is the only book in the Bible that explicitly comes with a blessing for the one who listens to it being explained and then responds in obedience.
- **Challenge:** Read and heed.

Discussion Questions:

- Before today's sermon, what was your experience with the book of Revelation (intimidated, scared, excited, confused, sensing that it really isn't important, deep study, not worth it, all hinges on it?)
- After today's sermon, have your feelings changed? If so, how?
- Review those "7 Rules of the Road" Kip put together for studying Revelation. Where do those rules challenge your thinking and actions? What adjustments in your attitudes and actions will you need to make during this multi-month series?
- Some solid theologians take different views of interpretation of Revelation. How do you listen to views that may oppose your theology without "canceling" them or the theologians who promote those views?
- Re-read Revelation 1:1-3. What stands out to you in these three verses? What challenges you in these three verses?
- Make at least one personal goal for our multi-month study of Revelation with respect to reading it, researching/studying it, memorizing specific points of scripture, etc, and share that with the group.

Resources: It's easy to become overwhelmed with writings, sermons, YouTube videos, etc, with respect to Revelation. Here are 10 theologians/sources Kip recommends (in alphabetical order) looking into. Please remember that not all align with New Life Fellowship theology, but all are sound theologians who will provoke thought and critical thinking. All agree on the basics of faith.

Voddie Baucham (Voddie Baucham Ministries); **Michael Heiser** (Naked Bible Podcast; multiple books); **David Jeremiah** (Shadow Mountain Community Church; multiple books); **John MacArthur** (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); **Chuck Missler** (multiple YouTube videos on his Revelation Commentary); **Grant R. Osborne** (Revelation Exegetical Commentary); **RC Sproul** (multiple sermons and writings), **Chuck Swindoll** (New Testament Commentary – Revelation, as well as Insight for Living Broadcast, 2 series on Revelation) **Warren Wiersbe** (New Testament Commentary); **The Bible Project** (multiple videos).