

ACTNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Cell Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Cell Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

The Revelation of Jesus

Revelation 1

Rev Reuben Ng

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- Many Christians feel confused or intimidated by the Book of Revelation. However, this was not God's intention. Why did God leave us Revelation?
 - To give us a revelation of Jesus. The Greek word *Apokalupsis*, where we get the word "Apocalypse" means revelation. The word means an unveiling, or an uncovering of something. In this instance, to reveal Jesus to us.
 - To bless us. Verse 3 says blessed is the one who reads, hears and heeds/obeys what is written. Revelation is not a book for us to stay away from or limited only for pastors, bishops or anointed teachers of God but for all.
 - To prepare us for the coming of Jesus, for the time is near. "Near" in this context is not counted by seconds, minutes, hours, days etc. The time is near refers to something that is balancing and teetering just at the edge and can fall or drop any time. The time is near when Christ will come any time.
- The Revelation of Jesus was given to John, a close disciple of Jesus who spent much time with Him throughout His ministry. Persecution of Christians was rife in Asia Minor and the entire surrounding region. John as well as the other apostles experienced tremendous trials and persecution for the gospel of Jesus. Even though John was familiar and even saw the resurrected Jesus on earth, John was overwhelmed and in awe when he saw the glory and power of Jesus in the vision (v17).
- Chapter 1 gives us five insights about Jesus:
 - The 7 lampstands (v13, 20) represent the 7 churches in Asia Minor. Jesus is standing in the middle demonstrating that He is always among us. Even today, He is among all the churches; He never leaves nor forsakes us.
 - The robe and golden sash (v13) reveals Jesus as our Priest and King. As our Priest, Jesus ministers to us, edifying and restoring us, interceding for us to the Father. As our King, He is sovereign over our lives, in charge and in control of all things.
 - The two-edged sword in Jesus' mouth (v17) reveals Jesus as the Judge who will bring justice to His people and set right everything that has been unjust.
 - Jesus holds the keys of death and of Hades (v17) reveals Jesus as victorious over death, and we have nothing to fear.
 - Verse 9 reveals that God knows us individually. Jesus' revelation of Himself to John occurred at the most excruciating point in John's life, when he was persecuted and exiled for his ministry. John was also the only surviving apostle as the others were all martyred. God met him at this lowest point and revealed Himself in a new way to John. Jesus sees us as individuals and always meets us at our point of need in a personal way.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus wants to reveal Himself to us, so that we can be blessed and be ready for His return. Think of a time you had a personal revelation or encounter of Jesus, and share what you learned during that time. How did that help you learn more about Jesus or changed your relationship with Him?

[Children's Activity: You can print any of the activity sheets from these websites. Hidden objects:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/505669864396987735/?lp=true>

Hidden words: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/565342559453580029/?lp=true>

These are activity sheets where children need to find the hidden object (for younger children) or hidden words (for older children) in the picture. Discuss if it was easy or difficult to find the hidden objects/words. How did they feel when they couldn't find or found the object/word? Frustrated, relieved, happy etc. Explain that the book of Revelation reveals to us more about Jesus and how God's story on earth will end. God wants us to know what will happen and be encouraged on who Jesus is and what He is like so that we can be blessed as well as prepared for His coming.]

2. The book of Revelation and the end times is not studied in isolation, but with several other books of the Bible. What are some personal insights or discoveries of Jesus in the second coming versus your understanding of Jesus during His ministry on earth?

[Verses to help us go deeper: Daniel 7:13-14; Daniel 10:5-9; Revelation 1:8,17 ; Isaiah 41:4; Isaiah 44:6]

3. Read through the 5 insights about Jesus that Chapter 1 reveals to us. Which of these truths mean the most to you right now? How can we live in anticipation of Christ's second coming knowing that the time of Christ's return is near (i.e unknown and at any time).

PRAYER POINTERS

- Thank God for His Revelation of Christ Jesus through John and continues to reveal Himself to us today.
- Pray that we will have expectant hearts to receive and understand God's revelation as He reveals Himself to us each day.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to remove any fear or confusion we may have of the book of Revelation and give us the wisdom and knowledge to read, hear and heed God's purpose and teaching to prepare ourselves for His second coming.

MEMORY VERSE

"I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." [Revelation 1:18, NIV]

PRACTICAL HANDLE

We start this sermon series on the 7 churches in the book of Revelation. In preparation, read through Revelation chapters 1 to 3 before each sermon.