

Revelation: Following Our Victorious King

[Revelation 1:9-20](#)

“At the Feet of the Son of Man”— January 14, 2024



Introduction

In a sense, the book of Revelation is a new way of looking at the world. It is a new way of looking at challenges, heartbreak, and triumphs in life. In Revelation, Jesus pulls back the curtain to show John (and us) the truth. Revelation helps us to view today in light of what is to come. It reminds us that sometimes things are not as they seem. Whether we like it or not, Revelation reveals a reality of what we all will face one day.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ wakes us up from a dream world that pretends that God is insignificant or can be ignored without consequence. The purpose is our obedience. [Psalm 115](#) reminds us that we eventually become like the idols we create. If you love, trust, and worship Jesus, you will soon become like Him - transformed by the vision of His glory. The vision of John transforms his vision of his world. It should be our prayer that this same vision transforms us as well.

Sermon Outline

1. Count the cost. Vs. 9-11
2. Behold the glorious Christ. Vs. 12-16
3. Fall at His feet and worship. Vs. 17-20

Read & Discuss

1. Read vs. 9 – 11

John's exile to Patmos was because of his faith in Jesus and the word of God. Do you ever think that if you do the right things as a Christian, that you will have a good life with no problems? That was not the case with John. His experience of tribulation and trial was typical for all believers.

Jesus is king, and He invites those who trust in Him to be a part of His kingdom which is not like the kingdoms of this world. The religious leaders mocked Jesus as He was on the cross. They thought if He was really a king, He would avoid this terrible death. Yet, His power and authority were on display as He endured the cross ([Hebrews 12:2](#)) For Jesus, it was first the cross then the crown. That is the same path for believers today. ([Matthew 16:24](#))

Why does this matter? Some people will talk about Christianity as if it is a cruise ship. You can have health, wealth, and happiness now. Wrong expectations are often the reason we are so discontented, discouraged and in despair. This side of heaven, we are in a battle. The right expectations lead to patient endurance. ([1 Peter 4:12](#)) What were/are your expectations of the Christian life? Satan prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. ([1 Peter 5:8](#)) One of his tactics is to make us feel like we are alone. If you believe that, you will become discouraged. John was reminding the churches (and us) that we are not alone. He was their brother and partner in tribulation. We can rely on and lean on each other and gain patient endurance in Jesus. If we are to endure and thrive, we must go to him. ([John 16:33](#))

Are you already tired? Why should we count the cost? It is worth it! What we will get is something better.

2. Read vs. 12 – 16

God could have chosen to give all of us the same experience as John, but He doesn't. In His wisdom, God pulls back the curtain for John only. He tells John to write down what He sees with words. When the Holy Spirit helps us read God's word, we can see with eyes of faith now what John saw then. Remember, the Revelation of Jesus (apocalyptic literature) is symbolic. Notice how John uses the word "like." John sees Jesus, the Victor, in His glorified state.

In the midst of the lampstands was Jesus. He is in the midst of His people. He knows our sorrows and joys. Our church is one of Jesus' lampstands. He is in our midst to encourage and strengthen us. He is here to tell us how to live and to correct us when we don't live as we should. The more we live according to His word and do His will, the brighter our lamp will be.

In the book of Daniel, we are shown the Ancient of Days taking His seat on the throne as judge. He will give the Son of Man glory, authority, sovereign power, and everlasting dominion. ([Daniel 7:9-14](#)) Jesus is the I AM who would rule and reign, seated at the right hand of God. He is the One who bridges the gap between a holy God and sinners. He is the Mediator between God and man. ([Hebrews 4:16](#)) He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jesus is God. He is like the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7. He, who is pure and right in all His judgements, is able to judge the hearts of mankind. When He speaks, His voice is overwhelming. By His word, the world was created, and by His word, He sustains all creation. In the future, all will be judged by His word. His word is living and active, exposing our thoughts and intentions. ([Hebrews 4:12](#))

All of the elements of John's description belong together. He is the Judge with blazing eyes AND the High Priest who draws us near. All the attributes of God are in harmony and for those in Christ, they are on your side. When you see Jesus in His glory how do you respond? Are you running to God? Are you fleeing from sin or flirting with the line, thinking you won't get burned? Are you resting confidently in His rule as the world falls apart? His glory is meant to change us.

3. Read vs. 17-20

When the curtain was pulled back and John saw Jesus, he was overwhelmed by His glory and fell at Jesus' feet as though he were dead. John is not the only one. This is the pattern we can see of others who had encountered Jesus. ([Isaiah 6](#), [Daniel 7](#), Peter in [Luke 5:8](#)) When you see Jesus, your knees buckle. If we know Him, we will fall on our faces.

However, sometimes we shape our view of Jesus based on our personal feelings and preferences. We take what we want like a buffet line and leave the rest. The patient endurance we have in Jesus cannot be based on made-up, domesticated ideas of Him. This is the only thing that will help us in times of trial and tribulation. The truth of Jesus IS glorious and overwhelming. He is awesome, holy, distinct, transcendent, "other than." How do you view Jesus?

The right hand of Jesus, that holds the stars, strengthens and encourages John. He says, "Fear not." Why? Jesus has the first word of history and the last word of history. He will outlast EVERY authority. He is the living one. He is the Judge, but He is a unique Judge. He decides our judgment, but He has the keys of Death and Hades. He died for all who trust in Him, and all who come to Jesus for forgiveness will receive forgiveness. Jesus rose on the third day, so all who come to Him will live eternally.

However, on the day of judgment those who reject will realize that they are more sinful than they thought, and that Jesus is more glorious than they acknowledged. Come to Jesus now. On that day, it will be too late. Is there anything keeping you from trusting Jesus?

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at fbcum.org

Next week's sermon text: we turn to Revelation 2:1-7 "A Letter from Jesus on Love"
