

Sunday, November 4, 2018

Revelation 21:1-6b

Theme: "DWELLINGS-HOPE"

(PURPOSE)

The book of Revelation is one that encourages us to remain faithful to the Lord despite our circumstances...

It seeks to teach those who are living by the values of a hostile world to watch out...

It shows the power of God to establish His final Kingdom in spite of opposition...

(ISLAND OF PATMOS)

All of these things were revealed to the apostle John in a vision while he was living in exile on the island of Patmos...

Patmos is a Greek island in the Aegean Sea located between the mainland of Greece and Turkey...

(NEW JERUSALEM)

\*The vision is that a New Jerusalem is on the horizon...

\*It will be the new eternal home of all those who have come to the saving grace of God...

\*The first heaven and the first earth will be replaced by the new heaven and the new earth...

\*The present earth will be cleansed from all the effects of sin...

\*Since there will be no more sea, the increased land space will be fully capable of handling large numbers of redeemed people...

(DIVINE PURPOSE & ORIGIN)

\*This newness shows a divine purpose and the origin of God's Kingdom coming from God out of heaven...

\*The presence of God will be with His people and He will forever dwell with them...

\*A primary purpose of redemption will be accomplished in that the complete fellowship of God will be with His redeemed people...

(ETERNAL STATE)

\*In the eternal state, there will be no tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain...

\* Everything will become new because God's promises are true and He will always be faithful to His Word...

(EXTERNAL STATE)

It is done! The external purpose of God to gather a holy, devoted people for Himself has now been accomplished...

Alpha - Beginning - God is the origin and source of all things...

Omega - End - God is also the goal or aim of all things...

(WATER OF LIFE)

The water of life is the eternal sustenance and provision that is available freely by faith...

In his vision, the apostle John saw and heard something...

(WHAT DO YOU SEE)

Do you see a renewed energy...

Do you see new children...

Do you see outreach (FUN...)

Do you see generosity (WARM...)

(WHAT DO YOU HEAR)

Do you hear praises...

Do you hear sharing of pains & love...

Do you hear celebrations...

\*I do not know what you see nor do I know what you hear...

(WRITE)

\*However, I want you to "Write, for these words are true and faithful..."

\*God IS making all things new...

\*God is trustworthy...

\*God is faithful...

\*God is the Living Water...

\*God will wipe away every tear...

\*Hope is on the way...

\*Restoration is on the way..

\*Humanity will be restored according to God's original plans and we will live to our full potential...

### (CREATION & REDEMPTION)

I know this because in the beginning God created us and said we were good...

God continues to create and form us as companions...

We sinned and fell short of God's grace...

God sent Jesus to right our wrong by saving us from our sins...

Jesus died on Calvary's Cross for you and for me...

He was buried in a borrow grave; but by Easter Sunday morning the tomb was empty because Jesus had succeeded in overcoming death...

This is our hope, that neither death nor the grave is our final destination...

The good news is that we have hope that we will spend eternity in the company of God (v. 3...)

### (TO BE CONTINUED)

But Jesus' story does not end with the resurrection story; the story is to be continued...

We have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, meaning that we must continue the work which began in Jesus...

This is our invitation to participate in the mission and ministry of the Lord...

Let us not allow Jesus' death on Calvary's Cross to go in vain...

Instead, let us be hopeful and faithful in our duties...

As we celebrate All Saints Day today, it is equally important for us to remember and celebrate the work of the Saints of our church...

Many of these people helped to cultivate our faith...

They faithfully served this church and community...

They have passed the baton on to us to continue the work...

Are we going to take the baton and continue the race or are we going to stand by and watch and allow their effort to go in vain...

The Saints who came us will be watching...

More importantly, Jesus is watching because he has just moved into the Fishersville neighborhood...

We have the option to join the mission and ministry or stand by and watch...

Regardless of our decision, the Lord will prepare, equip, and send servants into the field to continue His work...

As we transition to the Lord's Table, I encourage you to open your hearts to the Love and saving grace of Christ...

There is hope on the horizon in spite of our circumstances...

Amen!