

Sunday, November 25, 2018
Revelation 1:4b-8
Theme: "DWELLINGS-LOVE"

We started this series by talking about the HOPE we have in Jesus Christ through the resurrection...

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

And because we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit to assist us on our journey, we can be hopeful...

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

We also talked about the VICTORY Jesus won at Calvary to replace animal sacrifice...

His victory over death brought about
The New Covenant which is Greater than and Better than the old animal sacrifice...

Last week we talked about having CONFIDENCE to actively exercise our faith through the sacred virtues of faith, hope, and love...

Today we will climax the series by talking about one of these sacred virtues, LOVE...

Love is defined as an intense feeling of deep affection...

(LOVEWORTHY)

This means that the people we say we love should be at least lovable...

Jesus thought about humanity as lovable and today we read about the revelation of love...

This revelation is both from Jesus and about Jesus...

John is a witness to this revelation because he saw and wrote what he saw...

*John's intent was for his audience to do three things...

*READ the book...

*HEAR (understand) the contents...

*KEEP (obey) its commands...

The reason is because God gave it to be read and not to be debated...

In parts of the world today, Christians are discouraged from carrying their Bibles or to read them in public...

But friends, in this part of the world we are free to carry our Bibles and read them at anytime...

However, with freedom comes responsibility...

We have the unique responsibility as Christians to be a part of the family of God...

As members of this family we have the responsibility to project the image of what we believe and what we stand for...

Blessings come to us from reading God's Word...

"If it is read aloud, those who listen and obey what the Bible says will be blessed" (1:3...)

*Since there is a double blessing from the public reading of the bible...

*Let us make sure that we read and listen both in public and in private...

In the text this morning we read about the apostle John and his message of love...

(EPHESUS)

John became the leader of the church at Ephesus following Paul's death and the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple by the Romans...

The Ephesian church had established a number of daughter churches throughout the province of Asia...

John exercised pastoral oversight of those daughter churches...

(TRIUNE GOD)

In (1:4) John greets the churches with a blessing from the triune God-head...

God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ...

Grace to you and peace from Him who is. This is a paraphrase of the name Jehovah or Yahweh (Ex.3:14), which simply means "I AM..."

The description of the Father shows eternal existence in the past (who was), present (who is), and future (and who is to come...)

The seven Spirits is apparently a symbolic reference to the Holy Spirit

Jesus is the faithful witness in that He has finished His work of revealing the Father...

Jesus has made known to us that there is a loving father who loves us in spite of us...

The first begotten of the dead suggests that Jesus is the firstfruit of the resurrection...

This suggests that we too can be resurrected...

Ruler over the Kings of the earth suggest that He is now the worldwide Ruler of the everlasting kingdom...

Then the works of Jesus are listed in (1:5-6...)

(1)

HE LOVED US...

Jesus showed His supreme love in dying for us by taking our place...

(Romans 5:8)

[8] But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us...

(1 John 3:16)

[16] By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren...

(2)

HE WASHED US...

Friends, we have been redeemed from our sins through the blood and death of Jesus Christ...

His blood has washed us as white as snow...

If anyone is in doubt this morning about Jesus' love, I dare you to try Him...

(3)

HE MADE us KINGS & PRIESTS...

I want you to know that in the true church, no one is called "priest" except Jesus Christ...

As believers, we are a part of a "royal priesthood" in Christ...

(4)

Therefore we should recognize His GLORY and DOMINION. The authority of Christ is emphasized...

Did you see God's glory this morning...

I have seen God's glory in you...

I have seen God's glory in Tim and Ann and the volunteers during WARM

I have seen God's glory in our brothers and sisters from the WARM program...

Have you seen God's glory this morning...

Then John offers three aspects of Christ's return (1:7-8...)

1. He will come with the CLOUD in the sky...

2. Everyone will BEHOLD Him, even those who pierced Him; those who rejected Him and wanted Him to die will repent and mourn over Him...

Jesus' return will be one to establish His kingdom...

3. ALPHA & OMEGA, the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet, refers here to the lasting and supreme power of God...

Today is Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday of the Christian year...

*Many have experienced tragedy...

*Some, disappointments...

*Some have experienced pain...

*Some have dealt with things completely out of their control...

*Some have had a little too much to bear...

*Some have experienced some deeply troubling situations...

*Yet the love of Jesus has caused us to still be here...

Despite our condition, I pray that we will live into the freedom that Christ provides us to love and serve our neighbors...

The Lord is acquainted with our grief and pain...

His love has bought our freedom...

As we await the coming of the Christ child, let us gracefully move into Advent securely dwelling in hope, victory, confidence and love...

Amen!