

November 23, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

"Mercy, Grace and Justice"

For the past few weeks, Sammy and I have been attending a class on the Book of James, taught by Dr. Joe Grana, retired professor of Hope International University in Fullerton, CA. Though it has always been somewhat difficult for me to reconcile some of the statements of James with the biblical view of salvation as presented in the writings of Paul, Dr. Grana has been able to make James' perspective on the Christian life more congruent with the Gospel of grace in the larger context of Scripture.

In last Monday's class, Dr. Grana compared the biblical words, "mercy" and "grace". He said, "**Mercy** is not getting what you deserve, and **grace** is getting what you don't deserve." A corollary I might add would be, "**Justice** is getting what you DO deserve!"

Last Wednesday, Jose Ibarra didn't get what he deserved for the horrible murder of Laken Riley — death! Instead, he was sentenced to life (albeit in prison). Justice would have sentenced him to death for his unspeakable crimes against an innocent and vulnerable young woman! Yet as I listened to the comments of Laken's family and friends just before Ibarra's sentencing, I learned that not only was Laken a Christian, but her family were Christians as well. And when they gave their final words to the court just before the judge sentenced Ibarra, they told the judge what they as a family hoped in the sentencing of Ibarra for the murder of Laken. Laken's mother didn't ask for death but for life, in prison, without the possibility of parole. Laken's family didn't want to have to ever fear the possibility of facing this killer again. That was "mercy" for Ibarra, and the "earthly justice" (the words of Laken's mom) that the family sought.

Today we live every day of our lives under a canopy of God's mercy. In our sinful condition, God does not treat us as our sins deserve — God's mercy. And as we respond to Christ in faith, God's mercy toward us becomes God's grace toward us. God enters our name in the Book of Life — something we don't deserve. Grace gives us life instead of death. Because Jesus bore the sentence of God's justice toward us in death for **our sin** at Calvary, the sinner now stands guiltless in Christ before a righteous God and can rightly claim the right to heaven and eternal life as his inheritance — something for which he is inherently undeserving. Further, with the demands of God's justice being fully met as a result of Jesus' death for our sin, justice now demands life for us! There is no double jeopardy with God! It would be unjust! That's the good news of the Gospel!

In Christ,
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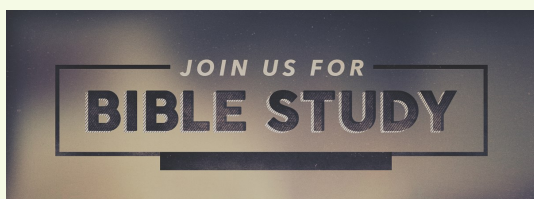


Pastor Darrell Chilson

***"We are living in
the season of
Christ's return."***

***Jesus said, "Watch
and be ready, for
the Son of Man is
coming at an hour
you do not expect."***

***The mission of
West Valley Minis-
tries is to help
Christ's followers
recognize the signs
of His approaching
return and be pre-
pared for that
Great Day.***



John 10 – Part 2

“The Shepherd and His Sheep”

22 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. **23** And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. **24** Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." **25** Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. **26** "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. **27** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. **28** "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. **29** "My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of My Father's hand. **30** "I and [My] Father are one."

Renewed Efforts to Stone Jesus

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. **32** Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" **33** The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." **34** Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" ' ? **35** "If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), **36** "do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? **37** "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; **38** "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father [is] in Me, and I in Him." **39** Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.

The Believers Beyond Jordan

40 And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed. **41** Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true." **42** And many believed in Him there.



- 1) When was the Feast of Dedication, and what did it symbolize?
- 2) How long was it now until Jesus would die on Calvary?
- 3) In this story, is Jesus beginning to open up to His hearers in a way that might accelerate His death?
- 4) How are the Jews attempting to gather incriminating evidence against Jesus that will justify their attempt to kill Him?
- 5) How do Jesus' words to the Jews bring comfort and assurance to us as believers?
- 6) What reason do the Jews give Jesus for wanting to stone Him? What is blasphemy?
- 7) What does Jesus give as evidence of His relationship with the Father?
- 8) What was the result of the Jews attempting to seize Jesus to stone Him? Compare with Luke 4:16-30.
- 9) Where did Jesus go, and how was the response of the people different there?
- 10) Where did Jesus tell us to go when we begin to relive His experience at the end of time? See Mark 13:14.



“REVELATION IN REVIEW”

For several months now we have been discussing the prophecies of Revelation in our classes and newsletters. And over the course of time, the major prophecies of Revelation which pertain to our future as Christians have been studied. The details of these discourses are embodied in the videos and newsletters accessible in the following links:

<https://wvetm.com/class-videos-1>

<https://wvetm.com/newsletters>

Classes are held each Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. Mountain Standard Time at:

<https://westvalleyend-timeministries-511.my.webex.com/meet/pastor>

and your emails are welcome and will be answered by sending your questions and comments to:

Pastor@wvetm.com

Revelation in Review – Part 2

Introduction:


In the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation, Jesus is introduced as the central figure of book (this book is, after all, “the Revelation of Jesus Christ”); and the Church is set forth as the focus of Christ’s attention. Jesus is seen walking among His people, guiding them away from evil and error and promising them an inheritance at the end of their difficult journey as foretold in the chapters ahead. In the third and fourth chapters of Revelation, a view of the characters and activities taking place in heaven is introduced. While Chapters 2 and 3 focus on the life of God’s Church **on earth**, Chapters 4 and 5 reveal life **in heaven**.


The Characters of Revelation 4 and 5:

The Father — The Father has always been integrally involved in the salvation of man. He gave us His Son and was with Him during His entire journey here on earth among men. He is again here seen as the central figure of divinity in the midst of all the other players in this scene.

Twenty-four elders — The twenty-four elders are individuals redeemed of earth. They are individuals who surround the throne in these scenes. In addition to Moses, Elijah and Enoch, there were many saints of old who were resurrected at the time of Jesus’ death and who went to heaven when Jesus returned to His Father. They were the “wave sheaf offering” who were presented to the Father as the first fruits of Christ’s victory over sin and death.

Jesus Christ, the Lamb — In the scenes of these chapters, Jesus is described as the Lamb of God and, as the Representative Man who has experienced life among us, the only one worthy to open the seals of Chapter 6.





Multitudes of Angels — When Satan was cast out of heaven, he took with him one-third of the angels of heaven through his persuasive deception. However, two-thirds of God's angels remained loyal to Him and throughout the ages have ministered to "those who are heirs of salvation." These angels make up the remainder of the characters of heaven spoken of in Revelation.

The Activity of the Characters of Revelation 4 and 5:

In these chapters we see two prominent interests of the characters described above:

Worship and Praise to God and to the Lamb — For as long as any of the characters of these chapters have been in the presence of God, they have witnessed His amazing love for man, His unfathomable sacrifice for man's salvation, and His constant faithfulness to His creatures. All that God has done in the salvation of sinners has never compromised His eternal righteous character and His justice in upholding the principles necessary to maintain a sinless and happy universe for His creatures. God is seen by those who surround His throne all that He is and all that He has done to save a lost race, and their deepest worship and praise express the honor due a God who is almighty, eternal, and "worthy" to receive their adoration and praise.

Anticipation and Preparation for the Final Showdown Between Good and Evil — Chapter 5 has a particular purpose beyond the worship and honor bestowed upon God by His creatures in Chapter 4. God's righteousness and honor has been established. But God is about to turn His wrath upon a rebellious world. God is about to reveal to us in Chapter 6 the first set of warning judgments which are about to fall upon the inhabitants of the earth. Heaven is in wonder at what is about to occur on earth. The significance of these judgments is profound and the impact will be horrendous. And in Chapter 5, the question is raised, "Who is worthy to unleash these judgments upon the earth? Who is worthy to make the call that the curtain be drawn back in the final Act in the drama of human sin, salvation and judgment?" There is ONLY ONE — THE LAMB — the One who has shared in our human experience and is most qualified to make the call — the One who has suffered and died to redeem us — the One who understands like no other what is just and fair, yet brings to an end forever the curse of sin! Jesus' relationship to humanity is described. He is the "Lion of the tribe of Judah". He is the Root of David". He was "slain" and has "redeemed us to God" by His "blood." And as He is handed the scroll which delineates the "things which must take place after this," He too becomes an object of worship and praise for the creatures that surround the throne of God in this scene.

In our next study, we will review the events of the Seven Seals of Revelation 6. These "things which must take place after this" are most relevant to us today, for they are about to break upon the earth. Jesus called these events "the beginning of sorrows" in Matthew 24, and they introduce to a sleeping world the realities of an approaching battle between good and evil that will usher in the return and the rescue of Jesus Christ with the armies of heaven. This coming study will be both informative and fascinating to all who are watching for the signs of Jesus' soon return.

Stay tuned!

