

November 16, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

"Our Heavenly Shepherd"

If there was ever a time when the people of God needed a faithful Shepherd, it is now. The course ahead is treacherous, and the dangers great. The enemy is circling the flock to deceive and take captive the precious followers of Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." And He literally did. It was not a figure of speech for Him. Jesus walked this life with us, shared in our human dilemma, and suffered the consequences of our sin. There is no one we can trust like Him, and as we face the most difficult time of history for the Church, Jesus offers to care for us, defend us, supply our every need, and rescue us from the pursuit of the enemy. What a promise to cling to in this time of crisis! As we live in that reality, the circumstances of life will take their rightful place in the background of our experience.

So how do we make this practical? It's a great illustration, but we are not sheep, we're people. And Jesus is in heaven as a victorious warrior waiting to come through the clouds with the armies of heaven to rescue His Church. He's not literally a shepherd. How do we apply this metaphor to today's trials and tomorrow's chaos? Here's how:

- 1) Whatever illustration Jesus uses to capture our faith in Him is simply a way of using our imagination to visualize the reality of His promise. The truth is, Jesus is our Protector, our Provider, our Defender — One we can count on to never forget us or leave us on our own. You can trust Him to be all of that to you, regardless of what your eyes or experience tell you — now, tomorrow, ALWAYS!
- 2) The days will come when we will feel terribly alone and forsaken, just as Jesus did in Gethsemane and at the cross. But His Father was there, and what Jesus was experiencing was part of God's plan for OUR salvation. He knew that, but He didn't feel it that day. The same will ALWAYS be true for us. We have to live in that reality, apart from any right we have to deserve it! Live in that reality — ALWAYS, and you will never be afraid!

In Him,
Pastor Chilson

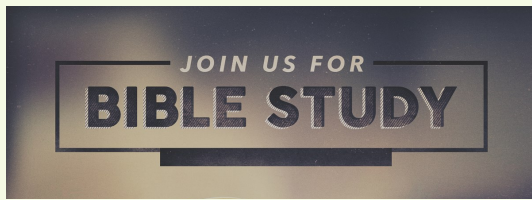


Pastor Darrell Chilson

***"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 1

“Jesus the Good Shepherd”

1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the **door**, but climbs up some other way, the same is a **thief and a robber**. **2** "But he who enters by the door is the **shepherd** of the sheep. **3** "To him the **doorkeeper** opens, and the **sheep** hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. **5** "Yet they will by no means follow a **stranger**, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. **7** Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the **door** of the sheep. **8** "All who [ever] came before **Me** are **thieves and robbers**, but the **sheep** did not hear them. **9** "I am the **door**. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. **10** "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have [it] more abundantly. **11** "I am the good shepherd. The **good shepherd** gives His life for the sheep. **12** "But a **hireling**, [he who is] not the **shepherd**, one who does not own the sheep, sees **the wolf** coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. **13** "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. **14** "I am the good shepherd; and I know My [sheep], and am known by My own. **15** "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. **16** "And **other sheep** I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be **one flock [and] one shepherd**."

17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **18** "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." **19** Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. **20** And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?" **21** Others said, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"



- 1) In John 10, Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd. Can you think of other names Jesus has used to describe Himself in the Gospel of John?
- 2) Who are the characters Jesus speaks of in this story? (Note words in bold)
- 3) This story takes place approximately 4 months before Jesus' death. How is He preparing His listeners for that event?
- 4) What does Jesus indicate is the purpose for His death? (Verses 15, 17, 18)
- 5) Who is Jesus referring to when He speaks of "all who came before Me"? (Verse 8)
- 6) How is it that the sheep know the voice of the Shepherd but not the voice of those who came before?
- 7) Describe the reaction of Jesus' listeners as He speaks of the relationship He has with His Father and His approaching sacrifice. (Verses 17-21)
- 8) Where have we seen this "division" occurring before in our study of John? (Verses 19-21)

“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>

In the next few newsletters, I wish to summarize the major points of the Book of Revelation. I will not be attempting to support my analysis of Revelation with a lot of texts or documentation as I have done previously. My attempt will be to simply summarize in simple fashion the major themes of Revelation from beginning to end. Much greater detail in the study of these themes may be reviewed at the links above, and questions and clarifications of these prophecies are welcome and can be addressed as they are posed our weekly class sessions or via email. 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

We begin our cursory study of Revelation from the beginning – Revelation, Chapters 1-3.

Revelation in Review – Part 1

Introduction:

The Book of Revelation is not only a “revelation” of the events that the world, and specifically Christians, will face as we approach the return of Christ, but it is also a portrayal of the person of Jesus Christ. It is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ.” And in the first chapter of the book, Jesus is described in all of His glory as extremely present and involved in the life of His Church. John is writing from the Isle of Patmos, where he had been banished by Rome for his witness of “the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.” He is the only Apostle who was not martyred for his bold testimony of the salvation story of Jesus, but he was persecuted and “imprisoned” on a remote island for Christ. It was during this time that John was given the visions recorded in this book.



Portrait of Christ:

Great honor is bestowed upon our Savior at the very beginning of Revelation, and an incredible description of various aspects of the saving work of Christ for us is presented. Jesus is described as “the **faithful** witness, the **firstborn** from the dead, and the **ruler** over the kings of the earth.”

He is the One “who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests.” “He is coming with clouds, and every eye shall see Him.” And for the lost, those who have refused His saving grace, they will “mourn” – tormented with grief and extreme wailing and fear at the sight of His coming, as they face the One whom they have rejected in all His power and great glory.


Then John sees Jesus in His divine attire walking among seven candlesticks, a symbol of the seven churches to whom Christ sends messages through John to the churches of that time and to the Church of today. In the right hand of Christ, John sees seven stars, representing the pastors/leaders of the Church. Christ is present among His people, then and now, and those He chooses to lead the Church are in His special care – something which has been comforting to me in my years of ministry. And finally, Jesus tells John that He is the “first and last, He who lives, and was dead, and is alive forevermore. And I have the keys to death and the grave.” Our Savior holds safely in His hands the eternal destiny of those who are recipients of His saving grace!


Messages to the Seven Churches:

At the end of Chapter 1, Jesus tells John to write the things which are thus subsequently recorded in the Book of Revelation. He says, “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which **are**, and the things which **will take place after this**.” Now that Christ has revealed Himself to John as the eternal Savior of His Church and the “blessed Controller of all things,” including death and the grave, He directs John to write about the events which were relevant to the First Century Church, the Church of the centuries to follow, and ultimately the Church of today which eagerly awaits His return!

The messages to the seven churches depict a composite of the condition of the church then and now. Though there were seven specific churches in the First Century to whom the messages were written, there were other Christian churches as well who are not named in this selection. These seven churches mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3 were not only commended and reproved for the good and the bad within, but the characteristics of those churches represent the characteristics, both good and bad of the Church since – including the Christian Church of today. Some of how Christ sees the Church is as follows:

Ephesus – A church with zeal for the Gospel and for the purity of the Church – a good thing. But this zeal had overshadowed the sweetness of a tender relationship with and faith in Christ.





Smyrna – A church with contrasting influences – that of faithfulness, resulting in tribulation and poverty, contrasted by the presence of people professing the faith but representing the agenda of the devil.

Pergamos and Thyatira – Two churches with a sincere faith in Christ – located in the midst of pagan influences, which were creeping into the church from the outside **and being allowed and tolerated** because of weakness and fear of confrontation.

Sardis – A church which was living on a reputation of the past and had, in fact, become dead to a living and active faith.

Philadelphia – A persevering church commended by Christ with a promise of victory over the attacks of those warring against the church.

Laodicea – And finally, a church is described that is “lukewarm” in faith, self-righteous in nature, and nauseating to Christ. This church is the last of the seven churches representing the Church of the past and of today. And the answer to its condition is found in the Gospel, which promises the righteous covering of the “garments of salvation”, the perfect righteousness of Christ, to cover their nakedness. Though they consider themselves rich and in need of nothing, their fake self-righteousness, in which they revel, condemns them!

Promises Of Christ to His Church:

- 1) Eating of the tree of life and “hidden manna”
- 2) A crown of life
- 3) A white stone with a new name – new identity, unique to ourselves
- 4) A position of authority over the nations
- 5) White garments to wear – a perfect righteousness now of our own
- 6) Our name written in the Book of Life
- 7) A name of honor before God and the angels
- 8) A secure and safe place in the courts of heaven
- 9) An eternal standing of favor before God
- 10) The name of the Father and the city of our new citizenship written upon us
- 11) A position of honor on a throne next to Christ

In our next study, we will get a glimpse of what is happening in heaven, as depicted by John, during all the events that are occurring on earth, especially right now and as the end approaches. Sometimes, all we can think about is what’s happening to us! But Paul speaks of “the whole family in heaven and earth”, and we tend to forget, in our limited focus, that heaven is busy with activity relative to the closing scenes of our salvation! We’ll take a look at this in our next segment.

