



+INTRODUCTION

John wastes no time in elaborating upon his original statement, that this book is about the "revelation of Jesus Christ" {Rev. 1:1}. No sooner has he finished saying this, that he then reveals some of the most profound titles describing Jesus.

Titles and names had an important function in the ancient world and not only identified someone but often described something about who they were. This couldn't be more truer than for Jesus. Not only does his name, "Jesus" (Yeshuah) refer to, "God is salvation", but subsequently there were many other titles ascribed to him which richly and more completely characterize, his greatness. John pulls from a wealth of Old Testament passages which colorfully point to Jesus not only as, The

One Who Was, Who Is + Who Is to Come" {Ex 3:14, Rev 1:4} but also to several others which identify Christ as the ultimate power and authority on the earth and in the heavens.

In Verses 7+8 John states clearly that Jesus, who though He may be perceived as distant and absent to those churches experiencing persecution and social/political pressure, will one day return to this earth to rule and reign, bring justice, and make all the wrongs, right. These titles and promises of Jesus' return would serve as the means of great comfort and encouragement by way of reminding these troubled believers that the way things are, are not the way things will always be. Evil, destruction, pain and death will not have the final word...Jesus will, for He is coming!

+READ

Revelation 1:4-8

Read this passage out loud together as a group/family before asking any of the below questions.

+OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

John pauses, as if in a moment of worship (doxology) in 1:5-6. What does John praise Jesus for?

In verses 4-5 John gives several titles to describe Jesus. Look up the following verses and describe why these titles are important and how they would have been an encouragement to the original audience to whom John was writing.

- The One Who Was, Who Is, Who Is to Come [Rev. 1:4, 2:16, 3:11, 22:7, 22:12, 22:20]
- The Faithful Witness [1:5, Ps. 89:37, Is 55:4]
- The Firstborn from the dead [1:5, 1 Cor. 15:3-4,20,28, Ps. 89:27, Col 1:18]
- The Ruler of kings on earth [1:5, Phil 2:9, Ps 89:27, 1 Tim 6:15]

+APPLICATION

How does the knowledge that Jesus will one day return in the future, comfort you in the present?

Even though John was well advanced in years (probably in his 90's) he was still captivated & moved by the fact that Jesus loved him & died for him (1:5).

- How do you think you could keep your heart in a place, whereby you will always be moved by these truths regardless of the struggles in your life or how old you become?
- What would the things that keep you from having that same loving attitude as John, should you live to 90 years old?

+MEMORY VERSE

Rev 1:7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.



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+What is a community group?

Community groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers are welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the word of God and prayer. Community groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church. They're a place where we learn more about the life Jesus wants us to live together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively acting like the body of Jesus.

+Why should I join/start a community group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is one & three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. We have been made in the image of God, which means we have been designed for community & friendship. Often times we suffer when we are not actively in community, because life in our broken world is complex and and there are many temptations to go at it alone. Our encouragement is for you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use the study notes provided to press into the Bible by having a time of discussion and prayer. Mix it up a bit, these times together should be encouraging to each other.

+Why should I consider becoming a part of the Calvary SLO Community Group Team?

We are enthusiastic about all levels of community, however there are definite benefits to leading a Calvary SLO Community Group, such as but not limited to: leadership counsel and guidance / spiritual covering, equipping and training, promotion of your group thru means of website, bulletin, special Sunday announcements, etc. We love having groups available in all areas of the county, available for all walks and seasons of life, and the variety of various structures and styles. Simply contact Pastor James at james@calvaryslo.com, or 805.543.8516 x3.

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