

A Must Read! series

Introduction: A Message from the Almighty

Message Text: Revelation 1

March 6/7, 2010

God tells us what His church should look like in order to reflect His image.

Prologue

Simple theme – Jesus Christ

Revealing Him in majesty, power, and glory

Preface

Jesus' present ministry in the church:

He stands among the churches empowering

He prays continually for His church

He purifies and chastens His church

He speaks authoritatively to get the attention of His church

He controls the church through human spiritual leaders

He protects His church

He reflects His essence to the world through His church

Before we begin

Jesus is present within the church speaking and working, and we must listen and heed.

Go Deeper:

- 1) What things come to mind when you think of the book of Revelation?
- 2) Do you consider the message of Revelation to be more about the future or about right now? Explain your answer.
- 3) Revelation 1:1 says that the book is about revealing not hiding, so why do you think there is so much mystery, conflicting interpretations, and confusion that surrounds the book?
Look at the 7 present ministries of Jesus in the church to answer the following questions.
- 4) Which ministry is most comforting to you right now? Explain.
- 5) Which is most difficult for you to grasp right now? Explain
- 6) Which ministry do you most long to encounter in your life right now? Explain.
- 7) Have you ever had an encounter with God in which you could relate to John in 1:17, such that when you 'saw' Jesus you fell at his feet as dead? Explain.
- 8) If yes, how did that encounter change you? If no, do you long for such an encounter or would you rather avoid it? Explain.
- 9) Read Revelation 1, list all the names and descriptions of Jesus Christ. As you look over these names and descriptions what jumps out at you?

Next Steps:

- I will take one present ministry of Jesus each day and thank Him for it, then meditate on its reality in my life throughout the day.
- Read Revelation 2:1-7 several times this week listing observations and questions in preparation for next week's message.
- I need to 'plug in' to this church more through a growth group and/or ministry. I will attend a growth group in the coming week and/or talk to Pastor Mark or a ministry leader about getting involved in a ministry.
- Write in your own: _____