

WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO US

REVELATION 1:9-20

Text:

Introduction:

The Lord took John away from his busy life as Pastor of the church at Ephesus that he might write down heavenly visions revealed unto him. John is up in years, perhaps in his 80's at this time

God used the evil emperor to exile John on a miserable little rocky desert island called Patmos off the coast of what is today Italy.

It was where the Roman government sent their roughest criminals. Rather than killing John for preaching the gospel, the emperor had John boiled in oil, and then left on Patmos to die a long, painful death.

While there the Lord speaks to John and instructs him to write in a book what he sees and send it to the seven churches that were in Asia.

- The focus of the book

The focus is found in the first five words.

Revelation 1:1 (KJV)

¹ **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:

- The function or purpose of the book is clear:

The function of the book is to show the future to God's servants. (Which must shortly come to pass)

- The fruit of the book:

A promise that if we will just read and heed these things, we are in for a tremendous blessing!

Revelation 1:3 (KJV)

³ Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.

- We see the Lord in His majesty

Revelation 1:12-16 (KJV)

¹² And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; ¹³ And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. ¹⁴ His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire; ¹⁵ And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

- We see the Lord and His mercy

Revelation 1:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

- We see the Lord and His ministry

Revelation 1:17-18 (KJV)

¹⁷ And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: ¹⁸ I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

In His message to these seven churches He repeatedly stated, “I know thy works.” As John recorded what he saw and sent it to the seven churches I wonder what message the Lord may have for this church.

1. There’s Nothing Wrong with the Facilities

A. Buildings

2. There’s Nothing Wrong with the Message

A. Sunday School

B. Church Services

3. There’s Nothing Wrong with the Ministries

A. Bus Ministry

B. Manna Ministry

C. Outreach Ministry

D. Chaplain's Ministry

So what would the Lord say to us?

1. HAVE YOU LOST YOUR BURDEN?

Ephesians 4:11-12 (KJV)

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

A. The work of the ministry doesn't just take place within these walls.

B. For many they are just satisfied to come to church instead of being the church.

2. HAVE YOU LOST YOUR VISION?

The Lord told the church at Philadelphia that He had set before them an open door.

Revelation 3:7-8 (KJV)

⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; ⁸ I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

The door of opportunity for this church is wide open, but many can't see it.

Too often our focus is on what ourselves instead of the Lord and the doors that He opens for us.

John 4:35 (KJV)

³⁵ Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

(Read what Matthew Henry said about this verse.)

3. HAVE YOU LOST YOUR COMMITMENT?

A. Many have grown content instead of being committed.