
SESSION TWO: THE CHURCH AND THE GLORY OF GOD

Revelation 3-5

- Jesus knows us truly. (3:1)
- Jesus loves us deeply. (3:19)
- Jesus guards us zealously.
- Jesus uses us purposefully.

Jesus Commends His Church

- For faithful perseverance in the Word of Christ. (2:2, 19; 3:10)
 - Guarding the church internally.
 - Advancing the church externally.
- For faithful proclamation of the name of Christ.
 - In light of opportunity. (3:8)
 - In the midst of opposition (religious, governmental, social, and economic).
- For trusting God amidst testing in the world. (2:10)
 - Satan is subordinate, and he intends suffering to sabotage us.
 - God is sovereign, and He uses suffering to sanctify us.
- For loving God amidst temptation from the world.

Jesus Rebukes His Church

- For compromise.
 - In the church...
 - Tolerance of evil (idolatry and immorality). (2:14)
 - Tolerance of error (false teaching and false teachers).
 - With the world...
 - For the sake of financial gain, social acceptance and personal safety.
- For complacency.
 - Self-satisfaction and self-sufficiency.
 - Failure to complete the works of God and failure to confess the Word of God.

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Jesus Commands His Church

- Remember who you are and what Jesus says.
- Repent: Turn from sin and trust in Jesus.
- Receive: Find your treasure in Jesus, clothe your life in Jesus, and fix your eyes on Jesus. (3:18)

Jesus Warns His Church (2:5, 16, 22-23; 3:3, 16)

- God gives warnings to Christians about falling away to keep Christians from falling away. (Heb. 3:11-14)
- By grace through faith, true followers of Christ will persevere to the end. (1 Peter 1:3-5; John 10:27-29; Eph. 1:13-14)
- By grace through faith, true followers of Christ work to persevere to the end. (Matt. 24:13; Heb. 3:14, 10:36; 1 John 2:19)

Jesus Rewards His Church

- Total vindication of Christ's ways in this world.
- Triumphant victory over Satan's powers in this world.
- Secure protection from the horror of Hell. (2:11; 3:5)
- Shared participation in the reign of Christ.
- Permanent citizenship in the city of God.
- Perpetual celebration in the presence of God. (2:7, 17; 3:20)

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The Portrait of God

- God the Father... (compare to Daniel 7, Ezekiel 1, Isaiah 6)
 - sits at the center of the universe.
 - dwells in unapproachable light. (1 Tim. 6:15-16)
 - is surrounded by unending praise. (4:8, 11)
 - is the Judge of every man. (4:5)
 - tempers wrath and judgment with mercy.
 - is holy above all.
 - has power over all. (4:8)
 - is infinitely timeless. (4:8-9)
 - is infinitely glorious. (4:11)
 - is supreme above all things.
 - is the sustainer of all things. (4:11)
 - is sovereign over all things. (5:1)
- God the Son... (5:5)
 - is the conquering lion. (Genesis 49:10)
 - is the slaughtered lamb. (John 1:29; Rev. 5:7, 9)
 - His worth is undisputed.
 - His work is unforgettable.
 - His worship is unending.
- God the Spirit...
 - is omnipresent.
 - is omniscient.
 - is omnipotent.
 - enacts judgment.
 - enables salvation.
- The Mystery of the Trinity:
 - God is three persons.
 - Each person is fully God.
 - There is one God

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The Point for Us

- The glory of God compels us to receive salvation.
 - God holds the future glorification of believers in His hand.
 - God holds the final damnation of unbelievers in His hand.
- The glory of God empowers us to escape temptation.
 - We overcome idolatry by glimpsing a greater God.
 - We fight immorality through fulfillment in our Father.
 - We refuse to compromise in light of the example of Christ. (Heb. 12:1-4)
 - We resist complacency in view of the excellency of Christ.
- The glory of God motivates us to accomplish mission.
 - Let's pray passionately.
 - Let's give sacrificially.
 - Let's go confidently.

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SESSION TWO: THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

Revelation 4-5

Remember

“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’”
- Revelation 5:9-10

Review

- Why is it important to start the study of this passage with the four truths about Christ - that He knows, loves, guards, and uses us?
- When you consider the ways that Jesus commended the churches in Revelation, what commendations do you feel apply to our church today? What’s biblically right about our church? Based on Scripture, what rebukes apply to our church? Why? Take time to reflect on this and to consider how we can repent and address the areas of rebuke.
- Why should we value God’s testing? What is the purpose of being tested?
- Why were the churches in today’s text tempted to compromise their beliefs? In America, why is it often easy for the church to blend in with the world? What happens when Christians’ lifestyles are indistinguishable from the world? In what areas of your life are you indistinguishable from the world?
- What is the difference between compromise and complacency? How are they often intertwined? Are you coasting through life, or are you living and enduring faithfully?
- Were any of these churches written off by Christ? What did He tell them to do to be restored?
- When you consider the eternal rewards in store for the church, how do they change the way you view and value this world? What steps do you need to take to focus less on material things and more on Christ?
- How does John’s description of the throne in heaven and the One who sits on it give a picture of the glorious power and sovereignty of God?
- Why should seeing God for who He truly is drive us to dissatisfaction with complacency?
- Why does Jesus’ death and resurrection make Him worthy to take the scroll and open its seals?
- How can we encourage one another to continue steadfastly in the faith?

Respond

- What is an area in which you need to stop resisting the call to involvement and become a part of God’s mission?
- How can you grow in praying passionately, giving sacrificially, and going confidently?
- Based on what you’ve studied this week, what do you believe God wants you to:
 - KNOW
 - DESIRE
 - DO
- What is the most challenging part of this study for you to understand, believe, or apply to your life?

Read Ahead

- To prepare for next week, read *Revelation ch. 6-11*.

PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK TWO

Pray for your life.

Pray for continued wisdom, insight, and guidance from God through the Holy Spirit as we continue to study Revelation together. Pray for knowledge and understanding. Pray for faith to give God the glory He alone is due. Praise Jesus for His worthiness. Pray for the day to come soon where every creature will bow down and worship the Lamb Who was slain.

Pray for your city.

Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Local Mission Partners.

This week, pray for the Christian Children's Home of Ohio. CCHO exists to bring healing to hurting children and families in Jesus' name. They provide growth and enrichment opportunities for kids in foster care, and assist in foster and adoption services throughout Ohio. They are currently in the middle of a building campaign to expand their campus and provide even more opportunities to impact the lives of young people. Pray for success in their mission. Pray for the children who are cared for by CCHO. Pray for financial resources to continue to do their work. Pray for qualified, capable, and compassionate staff. Pray for wisdom for their leadership. Pray for God's blessing on their ministry, their team, and their families. To find out more about CCHO, visit them online at ccho.org.

Pray for the world.

Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Global Mission Partners.

This week, pray for Gene and Melba Morden. For 20 years, the Mordens have worked with Christian Missionary Fellowship to bring clean water and the hope of Jesus to the Turkana people of Kenya. Their work to bring wider access to food and water is significantly contributing to the declining death rate and increasing levels of education of the Turkana peoples. Pray for success in their mission. Pray for financial resources to continue to do their work. Pray for their physical and spiritual health. Pray for the people of Turkana and the surrounding area, that they will come to know Jesus. Pray for God's blessing on their mission, their family, and the people they reach. To find out more about the Mordens, visit them online at <https://give.cmfi.org/p-203-gene-melba-morden.aspx>.