

# Revelation – The Big Picture

Week one – Chinese Whispers with a difference

## 1. Testimony: Trustworthy and True

- Revelation 1:2;22:6,16,20
- Truth to hold on to when life gets tough
  - i. A foundation to build our lives on - The word of God and the testimony of Jesus
  - ii. Hope to live for - Jesus is coming back as Saviour and Judge
  - iii. Present help in a world that suffers – Grace and Peace

## 2. Testimony Passed down

- The whole letter is a message from God
- Passed on to Jesus to the Angel to John to us!
- For the blessing of the church that witnesses in a suffering world. 1:3, 22:7

## 3. Testimony of love!

- Jesus, Saviour and Judge – Nothing is beyond him
- Do not be afraid! Write what you have seen
- AD 70 – 90 a time of great suffering for Christians  
Matthew 5: 11 – 12
- John is in exile because of the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus 1:9

Revelation – The challenges and the Joys ahead

- The style of writing - Apocalyptic Writing
- It's wide use of the whole of God's word.
- The Big Picture of Truth – Jesus is the faithful witness

## Digging Deeper

Read Matthew 5: 11 – 12; Matthew 10: 32 – 39 and 2 Corinthians 1: 3 – 11

1. These passages would not be the way you would market the Christian Faith! Why don't Jesus and Paul shy away and keep this truth a bit more hidden?
2. In Matthew Jesus tells us we are blessed when we are persecuted. He tells us to rejoice and be glad! What is the basis for saying that?
3. In 2 Corinthians 1: 8 – 9a Paul describes the Apostle's experience as they shared the gospel in their journeys around Asia. What was their experience?
4. Who did they receive comfort from? List the times Paul highlights the action God takes.
5. What impact does the comfort Paul receive have on their work?
6. What does the absence of persecution and opposition tell us about the health and effectiveness of a church?
7. Is apathy harder to live with than direct opposition? How do people respond to you when they know you are a Christian? (Home, Work, Friends)
8. Looking ahead to this series in Revelation:
  - a. What are you looking forward to?
  - b. What are you not looking forward to?
  - c. What do you hope to gain as i) an individual ii) as a group and iii) as a church?