

Revelation – Stay Awake! Why?

Judgement and Salvation – It is final and eternal

‘When He (the Holy Spirit comes) he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement’ John 16:8

1. The Father of lies John 8:44

- Sin and evil is a lie - a deception that fails to deliver
- Sin and evil distort what God has created –
 - Even good things might not be good when we fail to see the bigger picture.
- Sin and evil by nature fail to deliver – more and more is needed to satisfy (Revelation 17:4)

2. Judgement – Ongoing and Final (Revelation 16 – 18)

- We reap what we sow 16:6
- Hearts are hardened to God 16:11
- Sin and evil breed infighting and self-destruction (Revelation 17:15 – 18)
- Sin and evil build on fragile foundations (Revelation 18) Gone in one hour!

3. Oh Church arise! Matthew 5 1 – 16

- Revelation 16 – 18 is about final judgement but not exclusively
- God’s people: Stay awake, Be wise, Come out, Come in
- Stay Awake – Clothes ready! Colossians 3:12 Don’t let evil and sin go unchallenged – Salt to preserve, salt to clean
- Be Wise! Light of the world – see the bigger picture
- Come out! ‘Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you because of me...’
- Come in! Galatians 5: 22 – 26 ‘Walk in step with the Spirit’

4. Revelation 17:14 The war is won – hallelujah

- They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.
- ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’
 - As a bride prepares for her wedding day we prepare for the best wedding ever!
- It is about life and death – now and for eternity

Digging Deeper

Read John 16: 5 – 16

1. What are the three things in verse 8 that the Holy Spirit will do when He comes?
2. What does verse 13 – 15 look like in our everyday lives?
3. What are the implications for us? For the people we live and work with?

Read Revelation 16: 1 – 7, 17: 1- 5, 17: 15 – 18 & 18: 11 – 17

1. What do we learn about sin and evil from these verses?
2. In what way is this important and helpful for us?

Read Revelation 16:15, 17:9, 18:4 & 19:9 and Matthew 5: 11 – 16

1. Judgement is ongoing in our world. How can we use judgement effectively in Proclaiming Jesus' victory over sin, death and Satan?
2. If Jesus came back today, what would he would make of your life? What one thing do you need to do in order to stay awake? Be as specific as possible!
3. Be Wise! What is the one thing that seems attractive to you but does you no good? Read John 16: 13: How do we hear the Spirit's prompting?
4. Come Out! What steps do you take to guard your heart and life?
5. Come in! What actions could you take this week to prepare for the marriage feast of the lamb?

This week choose a TV or Radio drama and watch it with a notepad beside you. As you see the plot and sub-plots unfolding note down how the choices made by the characters bring life or death, peace or friction into their circumstances. How much does the drama reflect what we have seen in Revelation this week?