

The Revelation of Jesus Christ
Revelation 1:4-6.

SMBC Family Devotion

Week of January 10, 2021

*Do this devotion in preparation for Sunday morning and evening services on Jan 10th.

Before you begin:

- Review as a family the 10 points from Sunday's messages.
- Share some things that stood out to from Bro. Jono's messages.
- Read the entire first chapter of Revelation. Key in on verse 19. As Bro. Jono taught us Sunday, this is the outline for the Book of Revelation. Bro. Jono even supplied us two more detailed outlines (If you need the outlines they are available on the church website). Review them and talk about why understanding these outlines will be key for understanding this "Hallelujah Chorus."

Read the text:

"⁴John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Revelation 1:4-6.

Discussion:

1. How do we see the entire Trinity present in this passage?
 - a. Answer. The first person of the Trinity, God the Father, is the "Him" that John says grace and peace come from. The second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, is the faithful witness. The third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is the "seven Spirits who are before His throne."
 - b. Note on the "seven Spirits" – This verse has two possible meanings, both coming from references to the Old Testament (see Isaiah 11, Zechariah 4-5). No matter the possibility, John is using the number of completeness, 7, to help us identify the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Trinity.
2. How does John define Jesus Christ in verse 5?

- a. Answers – The faithful witness. The firstborn from the dead. The ruler over the kings of the earth.
3. What does John mean when he says Jesus is the firstborn from the dead? Where have we recently studied that? What is the difference?
 - a. Answer – We recently studied in Colossians, which was written by Paul, about the preeminence of Jesus Christ. In Colossians 1:15-20, Paul uses the exact same language as John regarding Jesus being “the firstborn from the dead.” So there is no difference. What John and Paul are saying is this: Jesus is the best, the highest, the greatest, of all those who have been raised from the dead. Jesus surpasses every other person that has ever been raised from the dead.
4. Why does Jesus surpass every other person who was raised from the dead?
 - a. Answer – “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:54–57. Jesus’ resurrection surpasses every other person because only Jesus’ resurrection swallows up death! Only because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ do children of God have a resurrection from the dead too!

Pray:

- Spend time praying as a family. Maybe there are specific prayer requests you have. If not, then pray for...