



Devotional Tools: **DailyWalk**

Monday, July 12, 2010

REVELATION 1

Apocalyptic writing (the unveiling of future events) is common for Jewish authors at this time in history. Through images and bizarre descriptions of death, they express their hope for the day that judgment will be rendered against evil and peace will come. But Revelation's main purpose is not to arouse speculation about the future, but to encourage Christians in every age to maintain their faith despite trials and opposition with confidence that they will share in Jesus' ultimate victory. Revelation is a series of scenes, culminating in the triumph of God. Who is the book of Revelation given to? Why (2)? To whom was the book of Revelation addressed (4)? What three things does Jesus do for us (5-6)? Are there times when you feel like giving up on Jesus? What truths bring you back?

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

REVELATION 2:1-17

What do you know about the church at Ephesus? (See Acts 19.) How might its strengths have been the cause of its failure? Why is repentance necessary for them? What problems is the church of Smyrna facing? How can they be both rich and poor? What does Jesus teach them about suffering? Has it been harder for you to live out your faith when you've been poor or when you've had enough money? Why? How are the Christians in Pergamum tested? Compromise is a problem in Pergamum. Some in the church tolerate those who teach and practice what Christ opposed. Then, as now, standing firm against the strong pressures and temptations of society is never easy, but not standing firm is deadly. Are there cultural influences or temptations that distract you from your faith in Christ? Put on the full armor of God to remain faithful (Ephesians 6:11).

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

REVELATION 2:18-29

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the church of Thyatira? What does the symbolic name "Jezebel" reveal about the woman in this church (see 2 Kings 9:7-37)? How does Jesus describe himself? What is he saying about himself? They could not hide from him, and we cannot hide from him (23). What do you think Jesus' promise in 26-27 means? What do you appreciate about that promise?

Thursday, July 15, 2010

REVELATION 3:1-13

What is the contrast between reputation and reality in the church in Sardis? The peoples' wealth and comforts cause them to die spiritually. They are no longer growing in their faith and have lost the passion to serve others. Could the same be said of our church? Of you? Why, or why not? What does the key of David open (7-8)? (Also see Isaiah 22:22-24 and Matthew 16:19.) How is the church in Philadelphia able to persevere? Describe its enemies. How does the reward fit the faithfulness (12)? What open doors has Christ placed before you? Which doors are closed? How have you responded to closed doors? What is the Holy Spirit saying to you right now?

Friday, July 16, 2010

REVELATION 3:14-22

What does the lukewarm description of the church in Laodicea say about the believers there (16)? How does the church view itself? Why the contrast? What does Jesus tell them to do (18)? What does this say about true wealth? In each of these letters, written to different churches, the believers are urged to listen and understand what has been written to them. Which one comes closest to your spiritual condition at this time? How are you going to respond? Spend time in prayer.

Saturday, July 17, 2010

REVELATION 4

Where does this scene actually take place? Who is the figure on the throne? (Note: 24 seems to represent all of God's people, coming from the 12 tribes before Christ and the 12 apostles after Christ.) What are the 24 elders like? What about the four living creatures suggests the eternal power of God? What response does the central figure elicit? Why? What does this say about who God is, and how God relates to God's creation? Imagine this scene with you in it. How are you feeling? What do you see? What impresses you about God? How might this vision enhance your worship life? Your everyday life? What lifts your perspective from the earthly to the heavenly?

Sunday, July 18, 2010

PSALM 100

This psalm invites us to enter joyfully into the presence of God. God's faithfulness extends to each generation. What six reasons does the psalmist give us to praise God? Do these apply to all people? Is your expression of "joy of the Lord" too limited? Today, joyfully and gratefully come into the presence of the Lord, and let your heart overflow with love. Let your spirit dance with joy!