

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

S2022-WEEK 10

4/3/22

Listen to, Learn about, and Love on one another

- Recently, what have you heard or read in the news that has made you feel compassion for those who don't know Christ?

Getting Started with a Warm-Up:

- Please share a situation you experienced when the result of your refusal to change a true statement or stance could have meant negative consequences for someone else.

Getting Down to Business:

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

1) Scripture/Observation:

A) Read Revelation 3:10 (see passage and commentaries below). How does the knowledge that followers of Christ will experience the rapture, change the way you currently live?

“Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.” (Revelation 3:10 NLT)

D. Letters to the Seven Churches (2:1-3:22)

John organized the seven letters around a literary pattern. See chart above.

These tensions provide a context for appreciating the motif of conflict. The verb *nikao* (“to conquer”) and its derivatives occur seventeen times in the book. John promised eventual citizenship in the New Jerusalem to those

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faithful conquerors who hold fast to Christ. The saints are to persevere until the demise of Rome and the return of Christ bring ultimate victory. The seven conquering promises generate resistance to pagan society and inspire willingness for martyrdom if necessary. Wesley's insistence that "the gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness" pertained to the seven churches. Christ calls the church to be a social alternative to pagan society. For the Christian, life is a process of overcoming sin and conflict. (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 3/31/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev.+3%3A10+&version=NLT>)

V 7–13: CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA—GODLY AND GUARDED
Philadelphia is the second of two churches not to be censured by Jesus for any sin. Though in great weakness, the church has kept God's word and not denied His name in the face of great opposition. When the hour of trial comes, this church will be kept by Christ. It is godly and guarded. (Bible Panorama, accessed 3/31/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+3&version=NLT>)

B) Read Revelation 13:13-18 (see passage and commentary below). Please discuss your thoughts with your group as to how these events will impact daily living.

13 He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. 14 And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. 15 He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die. 16 He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. 17 And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. 18 Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve

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the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666. (Revelation 13:13-18 NLT)

V 11–17: THE SECOND BEAST 'Coming up out of the earth', probably from the abyss, is a second beast with two lamb-like horns. He speaks like a dragon and is also known as 'the false prophet'. Exercising the sea beast's authority, he uses great signs and wonders to spread propaganda about the sea beast, and makes people worship not only the sea beast, but also an animated image of the sea beast to which he is enabled to give breath. Commercial activity and normal life are only available to those whom he can compel to bear the mark of the sea beast, or his name, or 'the number of his name' on their right hands and foreheads. **V 18: 'THREE SIXES' BEAST** The number assigned to the beast (meaning the sea beast) is 666, and John tells us that 'it is the number of a man'. However temporarily powerful and damaging that man may be, God is sovereign over him.

C) Read Romans 2:5 (see passage and commentary below). How does this passage affect your thoughts and feelings towards individuals who refuse to believe in Christ?

But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. (Romans 2:5 NLT)

2:5 storing up wrath. Religious presumption comes from a hard heart, since continued resistance to God's purposes in showing grace is a refusal of God's will, and increases guilt while protesting innocence. Wrath is stored up, pointing forward to proportionate punishment in hell. (ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 3/31/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+2&version=NLT>)

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D) Thinking over the discussion from our questions as well as Sunday's sermon, does a one-world governmental authority, a one-world currency, and a one-world religious leader seem like far-fetched ideas? What world developments or events would you point to as justification for your answer?

2) Application:

A) How can a study of end times prophecy equip us for the future?

B) How can we avoid the potential that a study of end times prophecy will cause us to be afraid?

3) Prayer: Pray that God will help our compassion for the unbelievers around us to expand and our desire to expose them to the Good News of the gospel to grow.