

BECOMING A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

A FAMILY DEVOTION

(26 April 2020)

Call your family together for a Family Devotion. (The time you would have gone to church) Set 60-90 minutes aside for Praise and Worship, Word Reading and Study and Prayer. Encourage the involvement of every family member.

We have prepared a video with Praise & Worship and a Message
The transcript below will assist you.

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Introduction

Paul said: Galatians 1:11-12 NKJV *But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. (12) For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

1. The Bible is a revelation of Jesus Christ

The Bible is not:

- merely a "how-to" book.
- only a history book,
- a religious crystal ball or a philosophy book.

At its core, the Bible is a revelation of Jesus Christ!

The Old Testament accounts were all written in anticipation of Jesus - the prophets encountered the Spirit of Christ and wrote of things to come as they ultimately pertained to Him.

1 Peter 1:9-12 NLT *Your reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls. (10) This salvation was something the prophets wanted to know more about. They prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you, even though they had many questions as to what it all could mean. (11) They wondered what the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward. They wondered when and to whom all this would happen. (12) They were told that these things would not happen during their lifetime, but many years later, during yours. And now this Good News has been announced by those who preached to you in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.*

The biblical word *revelation* means:

- "to unveil" or "to uncover." When the Holy Spirit directs us in the Scriptures, His goal is not only to give us religious knowledge, but to actually, in some life-changing way, unveil Jesus Christ to us.
- Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, who had assumed the place of "experts" in scriptural interpretations, saying:

John 5:39-40 NLT *"You search the Scriptures because you believe they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! (40) Yet you refuse to come to me so that I can give you this eternal life."*

- Eternal life is not in the Scriptures, but in Christ. The Scriptures "bear witness" of Him, but we must come to faith in Jesus to actually find life.

The Book of Revelation:

- Revelation is not merely a forecast of end-time events. Its primary purpose is stated in the first verse: Revelation 1:1 NIV *The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,*
- Without seeing Christ as the triumphant Lord, manifested through end-time events, this book becomes a book of speculation rather than revelation. - In every warning there are those who possess the revelation of Jesus Christ, and through Christ, they triumph over "the beast," "the false prophet" and "the dragon."
- As for the opening of the seals and the events that followed, each judgment heralds Christ's triumphant return to the world!
- Revelation's final chapters then speak of the age to come and the New Jerusalem, where the unveiled glory of the Lord replaces every other form of light.

2. All of us as Christians, individually, and collectively, as the church is a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Not only is the Bible a revelation of Jesus Christ, but so also is the Church...

The church is called the "Body of Christ."

- The purpose of a physical body is to reveal the thoughts and intentions of its head. Thus, Christ's body is to be the revelation of Christ, the head.
- When people see us, the presence of the Lord Jesus should be clearly discerned in our attitudes, words and actions; the world should behold Christ living within us.
- In other words, Jesus' hands cannot help others if our hands are in our pockets. His love cannot reach others if our love has grown cold or bitter. His victory cannot be manifested if our prayers are silent. We are His body – the actual means He has chosen to express and reveal Himself to the world!
- "*Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?*" (1 Corinthians 6:15a).

The Spirit of Christ actually dwells in our spirits,

- Even as the purpose of the Bible is to reveal Jesus, so the primary purpose of the church is to give Jesus arms and legs, lips and a heart - a functioning body - to make His nature known.
- There are two beings living in your body: You and the Spirit of Jesus Christ. As we yield to Christ, we grow into Him, who is the head.
Ephesians 4:15 NLT *Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.*
- Spiritual maturity is nothing less than growing up to the "*stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*" (Ephesians 4:13).
- Consider Paul's great proclamation: "*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me*" (Galatians 2:20).

- Jesus does not only dwell in heaven; He also dwells in us. As He is in heaven, so also is He in us (1 John 4:17).
- We embrace the death of our old nature, "always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus" with one goal compelling us: "that the life of Jesus also may be manifest in our body" (2 Corinthians 4:10).
- We do not embrace self-denial for mere religious reasons, but that "the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh." (2 Corinthians 4:11, Colossians 3:1-17).

This is basic to true Christianity!

- The life of Jesus Himself is to be manifested, revealed and shown forth through our mortal flesh!
- 1 John 2:6 NKJV *He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*
- If the vision of Christ living in you is not a burning truth in your heart, you may have accepted a false version of Christianity!

Consider Paul's warning:

2 Corinthians 13:5 NIV *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?*

Conclusion

Beloved, just as the Bible is a revelation of Jesus Christ, so also are we. The church is called to be a revelation of Jesus Christ!

Manifest the Fruit of the Spirit – out of a yielded living relationship with Jesus – the Holy Spirit working in us.

Galatians 5:22-25 NKJV *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (24) And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

and the Gifts of the Spirit! – by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit working through us.

1 Corinthians 12:7-10 NKJV *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: (8) for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, (9) to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, (10) to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

John 14:12-14 NKJV *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (13) And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

Questions:

1. How dominant is the Bible, as God's Word and guide in your life? With what lenses do you look at the Bible?
2. Do you feel that there is an adjustment you need to make to maximize and actualize the written Word of God to become your lifestyle?
3. The church is called the "Body of Christ", what does that mean? How can we reveal Jesus during this lockdown? And even beyond?

