REVELATION: Hear & Take Heed

Week #2

"He IS Coming"

In this past week's message, we looked a little closer at the One who <u>IS</u> coming. Since Revelation is a revealing or making visible of a person, it is good to know what it is about this person (Jesus Christ) that makes the moment so incredible. To help build the point, the Trinity of God begins with a greeting that sets the tone. The return of Christ is first and foremost the One that offers grace, an unmerited gift to an undeserving people. That same grace is what provides you and me with peace before a Holy God!

To help us understand the gravity and profoundness of this simple truth, the Trinity outlines Christ in His exalted position with 9 descriptors in Revelation 1:4-8. The first six build the following two descriptors, and the final descriptor is a culmination of all the other eight. They are:

- 1. The Faithful Witness (John 1:18 & 17:25-26)
 - 2. The Firstborn (Colossians 1:15-18 & Psalm 89:27)
 - 3. The Ruler of Kings (Daniel 2:21-22)
 - 4. The Loving Redeemer (Matthew 26:28, John 10:17-18, & Romans 5:8)
 - 5. The Alpha & Omega (Revelation 22:13)
- 6. One with God (John 10:30)
- 7. The Almighty (Psalm 91:1-2 & Revelation 16:7)
- 8. The Amen (Revelation 3:14)
- ★ 9. The Coming One (Revelation 22:7 & 12)

When we take the time to examine these 9 descriptors of Christ at His return we should be left in absolute excitement and amazement! Many theologians have described the two advents of Christ with these distinctions... He came first in humiliation, but will return in exaltation. He first came to serve, but at His return He will be served. He came first as the "Suffering Servant", but will return as "The Conquering King". Every eye will see Him, and their will be no mistake of who He is. It is for this reason the John says "BEHOLD! He is coming..." The word "behold" is used in its Greek form to capture the heart, mind, and body attention of every reader. Since the book of Revelation all calls for careful attention, this word "behold" is used 25 times throughout this single book.

Make no mistake, the return of Christ will be the most momentous moment the world has ever known. It will be the climax of time and resolve to the believer, saved by grace. And, it will be the climax of judgment at the same time to all that would deny Him the rightful glory that He is due. Again, make no mistake, the One who is faithful and true is the Almighty and Amen. According to His promise and faithful character, He <u>IS</u> coming... and soon.

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Going Further

In Philippians 2:9-11, we see God state that He is going to exalt the Son in such a way that every knee will bow. The beginning of Revelation 1 seems to set the tone for that fulfillment. Because of this, the statement in Revelation 1:7 that, "He is coming", comes with great excitement, exclamation, and execution.

If you were given the task, like John, to declare the arrival of such a great figure, to what lengths would you go to get the news out?

Read Ezekiel 33:1-11... As believers, we are called to be watchman to those around us. John was told to declare the coming of Christ to <u>all</u> that would listen. What does God say to Ezekiel as a watchman that helps us understand the importance of our role according to God?

Read Hebrews 1:1-13... Charles Spurgeon said of the Christian, who is to be a herald of God's Kingdom, that, "We are not responsible to God for the souls that are saved, but we are responsible for the Gospel that is preached, and for the way in which we preach it." What type of picture does the author of Hebrews paint of Christ? What ways are you painting the picture of Christ at His return, and is it the right picture?

If we are honest, we are reluctant to speak about things that we know we struggle with ourselves. We let things go in the home that should be addressed because we know if we say something then the same words we speak could be used against us for our own actions. So, we remain silent instead of speaking. We speak best of the things we are sure of in our heart and willing to live out each day. Here are some self-reflection questions to take to the Lord:

-Am I ready for the return of The Almighty, King of Kings, at His soon return... Or is there something you know needs to change that God is calling for? (Write it down and take it to Him in prayer)

-Are there thoughts, questions, or maybe even doubts that hold you back from speaking about Christ's return? (I encourage you to dive into God's Word or reach out to someone you trust with the things you write down in this section.)

Christ is "The Coming One"... Will you be ready when He comes?