

CP— 1/19/15

Revelation 1:4-8—“Trinitarian Salutation”

Sermon Outline

Intro:

Context: Heavy Persecution

65 AD- Nero launches persecution

67 AD — Vespian takes over and lights Christians on fire

70 AD— Jerusalem destroyed

92 AD— Demitian takes over

- orders emperor worship
- all people to come to Rome and worship him and say Caesar is Lord
- any Christian charged would have to renounce their faith or face death

Revelation— apocalypse which means unveiling/uncovering

- apocalyptic literature uses imagery to bolden us
- apocalyptic literature anchors our present by giving us a glimpse into unseen realities of the present and future

Letter— not written to us but for us

1. Salutation of grace and peace (4-5a)

- From the Eternal Father
 - Exodus 3:14
 - Isaiah 41:4
- From the Ever-Present Abiding Spirit
 - Sevenfold Spirit
 - 7 = Fullness
 - Isaiah 11:2-3
- From the Conquering Son
 - Faithful Witness
 - Firstborn from the dead
 - Ruler of the kings of the Earth
 - Psalm 89:27
 - Psalm 2

Application:

- Grace to endure and peace to not lose hope can only be given by God.
- When the Spirit allows our eyes to be opened to the unseen, it reminds us that there is more going on then what meets the eye.
- Jesus has defeated death and now reigns as the King of Kings.

2. Doxology of the Conquering Son (5b-7)

To Him who:

- loves us
- Freed us from sin by His blood
- Made us a kingdom of priests
 - Exodus 19:5-6
- Will visibly return
 - Daniel 7:13-14
 - Acts 1:9-11

- Will judge the world

Application:

- Because the Son has conquered, we are conquerors.
- You have value in the kingdom because of the work of the Son.
- You are loved, freed, and have purpose.
- The Son's victory at the cross and empty grave ensures His victory in the future.

3. Declaration from God (8)

- The Alpha and Omega
- "Who is, was, and is to come"
- The Almighty

Application:

- There is no one before Him and no one after Him.
- He is just as much present now as He has ever been or will ever be.
- He is all-powerful and His plans will come to pass

Small Group Discussion:

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture and sermon Sunday morning? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. What does it mean that Scripture was not written to us but for us? How does this help us understand the Bible?
3. In Revelations 1:4-5, grace and peace are extended to us by the whole Trinity. How do you personally experience grace and peace in times of hardship, and in what ways do you think these gifts can only come from God?
4. How do the titles given to Jesus emphasize Jesus' authority and victory? What impact does this have on your understanding of who He is? What implications does this reality have on our lives now?
5. In application about the Spirit's ability to open our eyes to the unseen, how does this change the way we approach challenges in life?
6. God says in Revelation 1:8, "I am the Alpha and Omega." What does this reveal about God's sovereignty over time, and how does it affect our trust in His plans for the future? How can we hold on to this truth when we face uncertainty?