20210620 - THE RIDDLE UNRAVELED

Sunday AM – Revelation 1:17-20

I. REACTION OF JOHN

- A. He FELL at His feet as dead
 - 1. This is the result of looking upon the Glorified Christ
 - 2. Ezekiel does the same thing
 - a. <u>EZEK. 1:28</u> "As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake."
 - b. <u>EZEK. 3:23</u> "Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face."
 - 3. Joshua experienced it too!
 - a. <u>JOSHUA 5:14</u> "And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?"
 - 4. Abraham bowed himself to the ground before the Lord to beg for Lot
- B. That should be OUR reaction too
 - 1. After all, we who are saved have been BROUGHT to NEW LIFE
 - 2. <u>EPH. 2:1</u> "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;"
 - 3. ROM. 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."
 - a. We must die to the flesh, crucify the flesh daily
 - b. When we met Christ, we became "dead" to self
- C. Someone once said that "sin was an evil action or motive in opposition to God"
 - 1. That is INCORRECT it makes man the judge of evil
 - a. It makes man the arbiter of what God's designs
 - b. It allows man to decide what is in opposition
 - c. Simply put: Man does NOT decide what sin is!
 - 2. Sin is disobedience to God
 - a. Our flesh loves sin and God hates it!
 - b. The lost soul, the natural man is powerless against sin
 - c. Too many times the saved soul gives in to its temptations
 - 3. When GOD clearly and distinctly speaks to us
 - a. Our flesh should fall at His feet as dead
 - b. We should not allow that old man to get in the way
 - c. Trust and OBEY, for there's no other way!

II. REASSURANCE TO SAINTS

- A. Fear Not
 - 1. Fear in the Hebrew
 - a. Fear reverence H3372, used for parents as well
 - b. Fear affrighted H3374, used for terror
 - c. His fear (terror) should be on the heathen, but we should fear (revere) our God
 - 2. The Greek word "phobos" combines both meanings
 - a. The guards over the tomb where Jesus lay continues the point
 - b. MATT 28:4 "And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men." (in the presence of an Angel)
 - c. And yet the ladies had fear AND joy: <u>MATT. 28:8</u> "And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word."
 - 3. This world can bring great fear
 - a. It is a dangerous and wicked world, but WE must keep our joy!
 - b. We have no guarantee of happiness!
 - c. What did the angels bring at the birth of Christ?
 - d. Good tidings of GREAT joy!
- B. The touch of the Master's hand brings peace, comfort, and assurance
 - 1. Peace, not fear or terror perfect love casteth OUT fear
 - 2. Comfort, not ease So much that it is one of the Holy Spirit's names
 - 3. Assurance, not doubt God is not the author of confusion
- C. We are in His hands from New Birth to Glory
 - 1. JOHN 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: (28) And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (29) My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."
 - 2. You have never taken one step outside of Christ's notice!
 - 3. He is GOD and there is NONE else!

III. REMEMBERING THE LORD

- A. Alive, dead, and alive forevermore
 - 1. This is the Gospel
 - 2. This is the greatest power known or seen
 - a. Not volcanic eruptions nor hurricanes nor tornadoes
 - b. Not cosmic cataclysm nor supernovae
 - c. The greatest power seen on Earth is the Salvation of a soul
- B. He has the keys of hell and of death
 - 1. He led captivity captive out of Abraham's Bosom
 - 2. He took those in the waiting room into Heaven with Him

- 3. Pastor Gray used to say He shook those keys in Satan's face
- C. In the midst of His churches
 - 1. His name is high and lifted up right now! At THIS church
 - 2. Raise the name of Jesus Higher (there's no way to praise Him too much)

IV. RECOUNT THE THINGS

- A. Things which thou hast seen
 - 1. Just think of the things John had seen!
 - 2. If you're saved, you've seen God do amazing things in YOUR life too!
 - 3. Tell others! Give your testimony! We need more testimony times!
- B. Things which are
 - 1. John didn't understand everything that Jesus was telling him
 - 2. And we don't always understand the things going on in our lives
 - 3. But we must trust God! Say Amen to God!
 - 4. The troubles of today may well be the testimony of tomorrow!
- C. Things which shall be hereafter
 - 1. The Lord will show end things to John in the coming chapters
 - 2. He is showing us today through His Word, the book of Revelation
 - 3. We should tell our testimony too!
 - a. What we were without Him
 - b. What He Is doing in our lives today
 - c. What He promised us in the future!

V. RESPOND TO HIM

- A. Do you want the touch of the Master's hand? Tired of living in fear?
 - 1. He told John not to fear would you lose your fear?
 - 2. Do you want peace with God?
 - 3. Do you want the comfort of knowing your sins are forgiven?
 - 4. Do you want the assurance of a home in Heaven?
 - 5. Do you want to be in His hand where none can pluck you out?
- B. Do you want to know Jesus? Tired of being incomplete and alone?
 - 1. He is the Amen, the One who died, risen and coming again!
 - 2. He is the only one with the keys of death and hell
 - 3. He is the ONLY one who can save your soul
 - 4. ACTS 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
- C. Do you know all that tomorrow holds? Jesus does!
 - 1. He told John to write the things that should come hereafter
 - 2. JOB 14:1 "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble."

- 3. PROV. 27:1 "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."
- 4. Only God knows tomorrow
- 5. The only rational place, the only safe place, is to be right with Him!

D. Fall at His feet

- 1. Turn from your self and your sin that is DEAD already
- 2. Turn to Him, believing in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus
- 3. And He will save you! You will know the touch of the Master's hand!