

BECOMING A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Paul said:

*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.*

Galatians 1:11-12 NKJV

3 years in Arabia
Verse 18

**THE BIBLE IS A
REVELATION OF
JESUS CHRIST**

#1

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 pointing to Jesus the promised Messiah and King.

1 Peter 1:9-12 NLT

(9) 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.

1 Peter 1:9-12 NLT

(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.

1 Peter 1:9-12 NLT

(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 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 spiritual knowledge and understanding, 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:

"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." **John 5:39-40 NLT**

Let it sink in...

- 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 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:
- *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, **Revelation 1:1** NIV*

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

ALL OF US
AS CHRISTIANS,
INDIVIDUALLY, AND
COLLECTIVELY,
AS THE CHURCH
IS A REVELATION OF
JESUS CHRIST.

#2

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.

Wow!!!

- We are His body – the actual means He has chosen to express and reveal Himself to the world!
- **1 Corinthians 6:15a** *"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?"*

The Spirit of Christ dwells in our spirits

- 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.**

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?*

**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!**

Vessels of His Glory!

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 NLT 6 *For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.*

- **God wants you to be a vessel of His Glory – He wants to fill you with His Spirit and His Gifts.**
- **Matthew 10:7-8** NKJV *And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*
- **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.*

Motivated by Love

- Baptism in Power = ability to minister.
- Baptism in love = motivation to minister.
- The Great Commandment comes before the great commission.

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?