

(1) Take a few minutes and have each individual talk about how they have understood the book of Revelation up until now. What interpretive perspective have you embraced? Why? Also, what has been your attitude toward the book in the past? Fear? Intimidation? Love? Explain why you have either read Revelation extensively or studiously avoided it. How does Revelation 1:3 affect your attitude toward the book going forward?

(2) What practical benefit in your life and how you conduct yourself each day comes from knowing that Jesus Christ is “the ruler of the kings of earth”? What does this latter phrase mean? How does it affect your perspective on world affairs?

(3) In v. 5 John declares that Jesus “loves” us. In saying this, he uses the present tense of the verb “to love” rather than a past tense which is what is found in all other NT references. What difference does that make to you personally? How does it affect your daily life to know that now, today, every moment of every hour, Jesus Christ is loving you? Not simply that he “loved” you in the past, but that he “loves” you now. What makes it difficult for you to believe this?

(4) John says that his love for us is revealed specifically in the fact that he “freed us from our sins by his blood.” What does this mean? What did Jesus do on the cross that set us free from the condemnation of our sin? In other words, how specifically did the death of Jesus save us?

(5) John also declares that Jesus is coming in the clouds of heaven. How deeply, if at all, does the reality of the Second Coming affect your daily existence? Do you think of it often, or do you simply take it for granted? Why should the coming of Christ have a sanctifying and transforming impact on our lives? Be specific in your answer.