



## **Sermon Discussion Questions**

Sermon Series: The Revelation

Sunday, December 5: Eternity – No Day at the Beach

Revelation 20:11-21:1

Michael Flake, Missions Pastor

### **To start the study, read Revelation 1:19**

The sermon series on Revelation is centered on letting what will happen later affect how we live now. But it starts with proclaiming what we know is true now.

**Read 1 John 1:1-7** (this is the Scripture that was read during the worship time this morning.) *What do we know from this passage about Jesus now? How should that affect our lives now according to these verses?*

### **Read Revelation 20:11-21:1**

Michael helped us to see a couple of things in this passage:

- 1) All people will give an account for their actions while they were alive.
- 2) All people will be divided according to their response to Jesus Christ, the Lamb.

*After hearing these two things, how does this stir your heart? Does it excite you or bring fear? Why? If you just look at point number 1 only, how does that stir your heart?*

Michael talked this morning about one major point to understand: "There was no longer any sea." (Rev 21:1) *What did he tell us this illustrates in the Bible? What is represented by "the sea" in Scripture?*

### **Read Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 65:7; Psalm 18:16-17**

*Because there is still work to be done and God is not done with you, how does this bring you hope? What are places in your life that you recognize are "not complete"? How do these places irritate or frustrate you and make you wish they were "fixed"? How does the truth that God is not done with you yet give you patience and hope?*

Last week's message centered on Revelation 13:10, "This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saint." Have each person in the group read this verse after speaking about the things that irritate and frustrate in them. For those that have things that are really difficult, have the group pray this verse over them.

Michael made another point this morning: "How does God make us more like Jesus Christ? By being more focused on our character than our comfort."

*Where have you noticed in your own life that you have pursued comfort over character?*

*Where in your life have you been glad you pursued character over comfort?*

*What was the difference that Michael talked about between the sea and a river?*

*What are places in your life that you live like a "sea"-only receiving and never giving?*

*What are places in your life that you are like a "river"-giving and receiving?*

### **Read Acts 20:35**

For some, we only know how to give and have a hard time receiving from others. But the Scriptures tell us we need to do both. *Why is it so hard for us to receive? Which is harder for you-to give or to receive? What are places in your life that you hope to become like a "river"? What are practical steps you can take, beginning with the holiday season but not ending here, to become a "river"?*

The joy of Revelation is that we are still in a time of "the sea"-meaning that Jesus is not done with us yet. He is still changing us. Also, the joy of Revelation is that in the end, there is no sea, that we are complete. Until that time, we become fully alive when we learn how to receive and to give. Because Jesus is the center of our entire created world, then he needs to be the center of change in our lives.

Talk practically as a group about ways you can encourage one another to give and to receive. What are ways this year that your group needs to give? What are ways this coming year that you hope your group will receive? Give real practical steps, write them down, and begin putting in plans.