



APRIL

2019

REVELATION

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

Reach out...

How I will do it...

How it went...

Other requests...

Answered

How it was answered...

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will help you grow in your walk with God. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable to your personal commitment.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend Youth/Growth Group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday AM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday PM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

Scripture Memory:

How did I do with Scripture memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ key verse(s) from the daily OnTrack Devotions this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Christ? _____

I will share Christ with _____ person/people this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

Other Activities:

List any other opportunities such as events, prayer group, etc., that you will participate in this month. _____

Today you begin a journey that might be brand new for you, but one that should inspire you—a journey through the book of Revelation. It is a book that everyone seems to be interested in, but one that few have read through completely. As you start, keep in mind significant points John opens with in this first chapter. The first point is that this book is the revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave to John. It is not John's opinion or his perception. What you will be reading came to John from God, and he simply wrote down what he had seen(vs11). Second, it is important to know the reason God gave John this book. God wanted you to be able to know what will soon take place(vs1). It is your preview of the future. Third, this book comes with a promise from God that you will be blessed if you read it, hear it, and take to heart its message. Although you may not catch everything the first time through, you will learn much that will challenge you. Ask God for insight as you begin. Use today's questions to help you get started.

SAY WHAT?

What do you hope to gain from reading this book?

SO WHAT?

What do you hope to learn?

NOW WHAT?

What will you need to do in order to see these two goals take place?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 1

REVELATION 2:1-7

FIRST LOVE

SAY WHAT?

How can you tell if you or your church has lost its first love?

SO WHAT?

How can you remember, repent and return to your first love?

NOW WHAT?

How can you avoid losing your first love in the future?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Over the next seven days, we will be reading God's messages to the seven churches. These were actual churches at the time this book was written. In most cases, the letters contain positive characteristics along with some negative issues. Today, we read about the church in Ephesus. This was a church that had much to be proud of. God said they had persevered in the midst of hardship due to their testimony for Christ. It was not a church that had given in when the heat was turned up. It was also a church that did not tolerate wickedness. But, in spite of all those positives, they had lost their first love. The joy and excitement they once had in their faith was gone. The fire that had once burned bright was out, and they were just going through the motions. God called on them to remember where they had been in their relationship to Christ. They were also told to repent for falling away and return to their first love. Have you or your church lost the fire and passion you once had for Christ? If so, remember, repent, and do what you once did. Losing your first love has serious consequences. Do not let it happen to you.

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 2

What would you do if you heard that some students from your school or your fellow co-workers were going to rough you up because of your stand for Christ? What if you were told they would be waiting for you after school or work? That is exactly what had happened to the church in Smyrna. This church had two characteristics written about it. It had afflictions and it was poor. Yet, in the midst of all that, God saw that they were rich. They did not allow their afflictions or poverty to cause bitterness or discouragement to develop. God told them not to be afraid of what they were about to endure. God informed them that Satan would attack them. Some would be put into prison and suffer for ten days. Their challenge? To remain faithful so that God could give them the crown of life. It must have given them great comfort to realize that God knew exactly what was going on in their lives. He would help and then reward them for their faithfulness. Are you experiencing opposition in which you need to be faithful and maintain your stand? Just like the church of Smyrna, God knows what is going on in your life and will respond. Underline verse 10 to remind you to remain faithful.

SAY WHAT?

What opposition do you face or might you face at school or work if you take a stand?

SO WHAT?

What could God desire to accomplish in your life through it?

NOW WHAT?

How can today's reading help you be faithful in the midst of opposition?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 2



REVELATION 2:12-17

DOCTRINE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How important is it to keep wrong doctrines out of the local church? According to today's reading, it is crucial. God tells the church in Pergamum that He was pleased with areas of their church. Amazingly, they remained true to God's name even when one of their leaders had been put to death. They did not renounce their faith, but stood firm in what they believed. There was, however, a problem. There were some in the church of Pergamum who were in error doctrinally. One such group was the Nicolaitans. They taught that Christians had total liberty after salvation. According to them, this freedom included free love. Premarital and extramarital sex was permitted. Although this church had not denounced Christ, purity of doctrine was not a priority to them. If allowed to continue, this teaching would have caused many to fall into great sin and would have eventually led some to denounce Christ. While some would argue that doctrine is not important as long as you love God, this passage clearly indicates otherwise. We need to make understanding the truth of the Scriptures our priority.

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 2

Was there an actual woman named Jezebel in the church at Thyatira? Possibly, but it probably referred to a well known woman in the church whose actions resembled those of Jezebel in the Old Testament. How does this impact what God is saying in this section? God informed this church that He saw they were a people who loved and served others. They also demonstrated faith and perseverance. In fact, God saw that they had improved in these areas and were even more successful than they had been at first. But, in the same way as the church at Pergamum, they tolerated a woman who called herself a prophetess and taught Scriptural error. She misled the believers in this church, teaching that sexual immorality was acceptable. Some believe she was possibly teaching that homosexuality and premarital sex were permissible--as long as those involved professed love. God's judgment was imminent. He would not tolerate this in the church. We, likewise, must never allow any teachings that contradict what the Bible says. Would you be able to identify false teaching if you heard it? Another reason to stay faithful to your daily Bible reading!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 2

REVELATION 3:1-6

SPIRITUALLY DEAD

SAY WHAT?

What signs of spiritual life and power do you see in your church?

SO WHAT?

What evidence is there in your church or your life to indicate that you are close to dying?

NOW WHAT?

What needs to happen to change that condition?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

What does the definition of the word "dead" include? The answer is important for all of us. Can you imagine being in the church at Sardis when this letter was read? They must have all sat quietly waiting to hear what God would say about them. He began the letter by saying that He knew their deeds and was aware of their reputation of being alive. These believers were known for their spiritual enthusiasm and power. They must have been pleased with what they heard, but the statement that followed was shocking. Their reputation for enthusiasm was well known, but God knew that they were really spiritually dead. Characteristics attributed to their church were not actually true. There was no spiritual life or power. His challenge was to wake up. He warned them that the "life" that remained was about to die. How those words must have stung. To regain their "life," they must remember, obey, and repent. Could this be said about your life or your church? Do people think you are alive, but inside you know you are dead? If so, you need to heed the word yourself to "remember, obey, and repent!" Today can be the day it all changes!

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 3

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

REVELATION 3:7-13

ONLY POSITIVE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What is the difference between this letter and the other letters we have read so far? One obvious difference is that there wasn't one negative statement about this church. Can you imagine what emotions these believers felt when this letter was read? What joy they must have felt to hear that God was pleased with their lives and that He would give them an open door that no one could shut. Their ministry was guaranteed to be successful! Although their strength was small, they had remained true to His name and His Word. They also learned that those who opposed and criticized them would one day admit that God did love them. They were comforted by the knowledge that God would keep them from the hour of trial--to take them away so they wouldn't have to face it. How would God evaluate you and your church? It should encourage us all to realize that it is possible for God's evaluation of a church to be positive. Could He describe your church in this same way? What needs to change for this to be true? What contribution can you make to change things so that God could say only positive things about your church?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 3

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your spiritual life? Choose a number before you read on further. How do you think God feels about where you are spiritually? If you gave yourself a number in the middle, these verses should bother you. Many people evaluate their spiritual lives and willingly admit that they are not where they should be. They find comfort in the misguided thought that God is pleased with the lack of blatant sin in their lives. In this letter, God clearly states that average or lukewarm Christianity is worse to Him than being a cold Christian. How do you think the Laodiceans felt when they realized what God's position on average was? Why is lukewarm so sickening to God? According to verse 17, it is because it leads us to a wrong conclusion about our level of spiritual maturity. A lukewarm individual can convince himself that he is doing fine and needs nothing. In reality, to God he is poor, wretched, pitiful, blind, and naked. God's counsel to lukewarm Christians is to repent and come back to Him. How does God feel about your spiritual life? Does it make God sick? Do you need to repent and come back?

SAY WHAT?

How did you rate your spiritual life on the scale of 1-10 and why did you give yourself that number?

SO WHAT?

How does God feel about where you are in your walk with Him?

NOW WHAT?

What needs to change in order for you to move to a higher number?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 3

REVELATION 4:5-11

WORTHY

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

If someone were to ask you who Jesus Christ is, how would you describe Him? Often, someone who was saved as a small child does not fully grasp who Jesus is and what He has done for him. It is easy to focus on the attributes of Christ and forget what He has done in our lives. In this chapter, we see how an understanding of what Christ has done impacts our view of Him. To the four creatures, Christ is holy. Their focus is on His attributes, and they are awed by who He is. To the 24 elders, Jesus Christ is worthy. Why? Because they had been redeemed by Christ, their focus is not only on who He is, but also on what He did for them personally. He is not only an all-powerful and all-knowing God, but He humbled Himself and died on the cross for their sins. Jesus Christ changed their lives forever. Creatures who cannot experience redemption will never know what it is like to see Jesus as worthy. Do you fully understand who Jesus is and what He has done for you? Does your heart overflow with gratitude when you consider what Christ has done in your life? Have you told Him? Take time today to reflect not only on who Christ is, but also on what He has done for you.

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 4

Have you ever thought about what the events mentioned in this chapter will be like? Should you and I expect to be a part of them? The events written about in the following chapters will all take place during the Tribulation Period. The rapture will have previously taken place, and those of us who have trusted Christ as Savior will be in heaven. The events that will take place on the earth during this time period will not be something we will experience. We will already be in heaven and will only participate in the events that occur there. We will join the heavenly host and those redeemed throughout the ages singing "Worthy Is the Lamb." It will be a wondrous choir with all of us able to harmonize perfectly. What an awesome moment! On earth, however, those who do not know Christ will be facing the judgment and wrath of God. While we are singing and praising God, times of great peril are about to begin on the earth. Where will your friends and family be during the Tribulation? Are they ready? Have you told them what the Bible says about their future? When will you?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 5

REVELATION 6:1-8

SEAL JUDGMENTS

SAY WHAT?

Of all the judgments listed in this passage, which one do you think will be the worst?

SO WHAT?

Why do you think Christians are so passive about wanting to keep unsaved people from these judgments?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to allow these truths to impact the way you live?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

Today, we begin reading the record of what will take place on the earth while those of us who have trusted Christ will be in heaven. We will be in heaven awaiting the end of the Tribulation and our return with Christ for the 1,000 year rule on the earth. The first judgments to take place are the seven seal judgments. Six of the seven are found in today's extra reading. The first seal judgment is the beginning of a cold war on the earth. Distrust and suspicion will rule. The second seal judgment is open war. Bloodshed will be the norm. The third seal judgment is famine. According to the Bible, the famine will be so severe that a day's wages will buy only one quart of wheat. The fourth seal judgment is death. One fourth of the world's population will die. The fifth seal judgment is martyrdom. Christians will be slain for their faith in Christ. The sixth seal is physical disturbances. Meteor showers, earthquakes, and other examples are given. People on earth will know that God's wrath has begun. How thankful we should be that we will be in heaven. It should also motivate us to share Christ with others so they can avoid God's judgment.

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 6

Why did God pause between His description of the sixth and seventh seal judgments to explain the 144,000 sealed Jews? It would be easy for one to read this chapter and conclude that no one could possibly get saved in the midst of all the horror occurring on the earth. It is as though God stops the account to let us know that, in spite of what is transpiring on the earth, He will continue to save people. The activity of grace and opportunities to trust in the Son of God for salvation will continue. John tells us that 144,000 Jews will be saved as well as "a great multitude that no one could count." This group will be made up of all kinds of people. What a comfort to know that no matter how awful the circumstances may seem to us or, how wicked this world may yet get, God is still willing to reach out and save people. In spite of the circumstances, people will see their need to trust Christ. That alone ought to encourage us to continue sharing our faith, regardless of the circumstances. Don't assume that you will get a negative response when looking for opportunities to share Christ with your world. Use today's questions to help you get started.

SAY WHAT?

List the names of some people in your world who you would like to see come to Christ?

SO WHAT?

What obstacles could keep you from sharing Christ with them?

NOW WHAT?

How are you going to share Christ with them?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 7

PROVERBS 2

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Why was there silence in heaven after the seventh seal was opened? As we read this chapter, we realize silence is about the only response one could have to what will be taking place. While the seal judgments are horrible, these next judgments are even worse. Can you imagine what it is going to be like to live on the earth during the Tribulation? Think about it! In the trumpet judgments, a third of the earth will be burned up, a third of the sea will be turned into blood and, as a result, a third of the creatures in the sea will die. Imagine the smell from all the death and decay. Judgment continues with a third of the rivers becoming bitter, and even more people will die. Then, a third of all light from the sun and moon will be removed, which means a third of each day will be totally black. How horrible it will be to live on the earth during this time period. How does the knowledge of this affect you? You need to be more diligent in sharing the message of Christ with those who are headed for these judgments because they are not saved. Take advantage of the opportunities that God gives you this week to share the message of hope.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 8

REVELATION 9:1-11

IN CONTROL

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Who controls the demonic forces that come out of the abyss for the fifth trumpet judgment? It may seem, as you read this, that the events unfolding during the Tribulation reveal that things are out of control. It would appear that God has lost His hold on the situation. I am sure it will also appear that way to the people on earth during these events. However, that is not the case. According to verses 4-5, the demons can do only what God will allow them to do. Their activities and their power will be limited by God. All the events of the Tribulation are still under God's control. As we continue our reading throughout this month, we must keep this critical truth in mind. Difficult circumstances cloud our ability to see reality. When evil appears to be winning and God seems to be losing, we often feel that the situation is out of control. In His sovereign judgment, God may allow difficult circumstances to take place, but He is always directing them. Have you recently felt as though God has lost control in your life? Keep in mind our view of a situation is limited. God is still in control.

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 9

Why did God ask John to eat the scroll? Is there a message for us in this event? In this chapter, John saw a book that contained more of the events that were yet to come. John was told not to reveal them. Then, he was asked to do something that must have seemed really strange. He was told to take the scroll and eat it. He was told that it would taste sweet in his mouth, but would then grow sour in his stomach. Why? Could God be showing that before we can communicate His Word, it must be inside of us? Could He also be demonstrating the truth of this entire book? Prophecy is exciting to read and study. However, when we really look at it and think about it, it sours in our stomachs. This book, while exciting and interesting, ought to grieve the heart of every believer. What happened to John when he ate the scroll should happen to each of us. What does your response to this book tell you about your concern for the lost? Are you burdened to reach people who will experience these events? "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37). Will you be one of the few?

SAY WHAT?

What are some of the most interesting facts you have learned so far this month in Revelation?

SO WHAT?

What is the most difficult truth to accept?

NOW WHAT?

What should your response be to what you are learning?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 10

REVELATION 11:1-14

PUNISHMENT

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How do you respond to the judgment of God in your life? When punishment comes as a result of your sin, how well do you receive it? Hopefully, it is not like the people in today's reading. Today we read about the two witnesses who will be on the earth at this time. Even after experiencing all that has taken place to this point, the world will not respond well to their message. For 1,260 days, the witnesses will preach, and people will not be able to harm them, although they will try. The witnesses will then be killed. The world will respond by celebrating their deaths. Not only will they refuse to properly bury them, but the two witnesses will be left in the street for all to see. The world will then use the occasion as a holiday in which they send one another gifts. Amazing! But God will again intervene by raising the two witnesses from the dead and taking them to heaven. He also will send an earthquake as judgment. What is the message for us today? It is so important that we not allow the judgments of God to harden us, but soften us and bring us to repentance. When punishment comes, we need to submit to it and let it teach us (Heb. 12:11).

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 11

After reading this passage, do you understand what it means? It is not an easy passage to comprehend. But to help us, we need to closely examine what John has written. First, the woman in this chapter refers to the nation of Israel. It is from the Jews that Christ was born. The child is obviously Christ. The dragon is Satan. Satan had tried, at the time of Christ's birth, to destroy Him. He was unable to, and Christ fulfilled the purpose for which He was sent. He died for our sins and rose again on the third day, overcoming sin and death. Since Satan was unable to defeat the child, he turned his attention to the woman, Israel. We also learn that there will be a battle between the forces of the Archangel Michael and those of Satan. Satan will be defeated and then cast out of heaven. He will no longer be permitted in heaven. Satan will respond by intensifying his attack on Israel. However, God will provide refuge so that they will not be defeated. What we read about here is the beginning of the end for Satan and his army. God will be victorious, and He will provide deliverance for His people. He always does!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 12

REVELATION 13:1-12

HOPELESS?

SAY WHAT?

What circumstances are you now facing that seem to be hopeless?

SO WHAT?

What situation can you look back on to confirm that God provided a way through it for you?

NOW WHAT?

How can you find comfort from this passage in your present circumstances?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Who is the first beast in this chapter, and who is the second beast? The first beast is commonly known as Antichrist. He is a man who will rule on the earth during the tribulation and will be given his power and his throne by Satan himself. The second beast is known as the false prophet. His job will be to promote the Antichrist and convince the world to worship him. Satan is attempting to counterfeit the trinity of God with these two evil beasts. He will set himself up as God and the Antichrist as Jesus. Satan will even deceive people into believing that the Antichrist has died of a head wound and is then raised back to life. All this is designed to counterfeit what God has done. It would seem hopeless if we did not know that God was in total control. While Satan may think he is in control, he is just accomplishing what God has designed. The saints are given great encouragement in verse 10 when they are told to have patient endurance and faithfulness. Likewise, when we face what may appear to be hopeless situations, we need faithfulness and endurance as we wait for God's solution. God is in control even when it may look like He is not.

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 13

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

REVELATION 14:1-13

BLAMELESS

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How much does our environment impact how we behave? If we live in the midst of wickedness and rebellion, does that mean we must cave in to peer pressure? If you feel as if there is no hope for people who live in very difficult situations, then this passage should encourage you. We read today about the 144,000 who had been saved and go to heaven. Their work on earth was completed. In spite of all that had happened on the earth, they remained pure. They did not defile themselves with women. This could simply mean that they were unmarried or refer to the fact that they were sexually pure. They followed the Lamb even though the world around them did not. That is a true definition of standing alone in the midst of great opposition. Their world was filled with lies and deceit, yet they did not lie. In fact, according to verse 5, they were blameless. What an encouragement that should be to us. It illustrates that we, too, can remain blameless with God's power even in the midst of great wickedness. We can stay pure in the midst of sexual immorality. In the midst of rebellion, we can stand firm. Are you standing firm? You can!

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 14

Chapter 15 is an interlude before the most awesome of God's judgments against the world begins. In chapter 16, we will begin learning about the seven bowl judgments, which are even worse than what we have read so far. As we discover what will be taking place in heaven, there is something important to keep in mind. Did you notice it? It is found in verse 2. As John looked across the sea, he saw a group of people. Note how he described them. They were a group who had been victorious over the beast. It would be logical to feel that Satan would control everyone during the Tribulation. However, there still will be people who will not succumb to his deception, and will remain faithful to God. In fact, some will even trust Christ, as we read earlier. As we continue our reading and learn about the bowl judgments ahead, keep in mind that there will still be those who stand firm for God and resist Satan and his schemes. How much more, in this present day and age, should we stand against Satan and live victoriously for Christ? What is keeping you from taking a stand in your world?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 15



REVELATION 16:1-11

HARD HEARTS

SAY WHAT?

How does God reveal areas to you in which you need to repent?

SO WHAT?

In what areas do you see Him prompting you right now?

NOW WHAT?

How can you avoid developing a hard heart that refuses to repent?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

Why would a God of love bring about these horrible judgments on the earth? We are given part of the answer in this chapter. As you read these verses, you can't help but shudder at what it is going to be like on the earth during the bowl judgments, especially when you realize what has already taken place. Everyone will have painful sores all over their bodies. Every living thing in the sea will die, and the rivers and springs will become blood. Imagine the agony and outcry when people are not just sunburned, but are scorched and seared. Why? According to verse 6, they had shed the blood of saints and prophets. They, even in the midst of all these judgments, will refuse to humble themselves before God and repent or respond meekly to the people who serve Him. Even verse 9 says that, in spite of their own physical pain from the sores and the sun, they will refuse to acknowledge their sin or glorify God. How does this end? With an earthquake unlike any before. Their response? No repentance. Sin left not dealt with can lead to unbelievable hardness. Make sure you deal with sin immediately so you won't become hardened!

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 16

This is one of the chapters in Revelation that can be very confusing. It helps us to understand the passage by understanding some of the symbols given here. The beast, of course, as we learned earlier, is the Antichrist. The harlot is the false religion that has been the world's religion during the Tribulation. John explains that, during the beginning of the Tribulation, this false religion will flourish in the system of the world referred to as Babylon. This false religion will be centered in Rome, and will be comprised of many religious groups including the Roman Catholic Church. For the first half of the Tribulation, this religion will reign unchallenged. In the middle of the Tribulation, however, the Antichrist will destroy this religion and will set himself up as the one to be worshiped. John describes what this religion will look like. He also tells us that all the world will follow it until it is destroyed by the Antichrist. In spite of what has gone on to this point, people will still refuse to acknowledge God, and continue to worship the beast. In spite of all that has happened, people will not repent. Unfortunately, we can be just like them. Are you?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 17

REVELATION 18:9-20

JUDGMENT COMING

SAY WHAT?

What gives people confidence in a successful future?

SO WHAT?

What is going on in our world that causes people to wonder if God is going to win?

NOW WHAT?

How can you apply today's reading to both situations?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

Today you have read the final aspect of the judgment of God on the world. In it, we find some important and interesting facts. Chapter 17 revealed how the religion of Babylon will end. Chapter 18 reveals how the economic and commercial aspects of Babylon will end. Not only will Babylon become the center for the religion of the world during the Tribulation, it will also become the commercial center of the world. In spite of all that has happened on the earth so far, Babylon will still give people hope because of its wealth and power. Just read verses 11-13 and see the kind of luxury items that will still be sold out from this city. When God comes to destroy it, people will finally grasp the fact that it is all about to end. As they see this city burning from the judgment of God, they will realize that this great city and its wealth and power is about to fall under the mighty hand of God. How can you apply this passage to your own life? Although it may appear that God is not going to win and all looks hopeless in your world, He will always be victorious. He will always judge sin and He will always deliver the righteous. Have hope!

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 18

What a difference between this chapter and the other chapters we have been reading so far this month! Instead of gloom and doom, today we see the beginning of God's reign on the earth. As you read these events, remember that, if you know Christ as your Savior, you will be participating in them. After the destruction of Babylon we read about yesterday, Christ will come back to earth to set up His earthly kingdom. Heaven will begin rejoicing knowing that the time has almost arrived. Christ will mount His white horse and come to earth to destroy Satan and his armies. The beast and false prophet will be captured and cast into the lake of fire. Imagine the armies of the earth gathering for one final battle and the excitement they'll feel as they all unite against God and His army. With such great might, they are confident and certain that God will be defeated. How that will all change when the beast and the false prophet are captured! All this was designed to prepare the earth for God's rule. God's kingdom will be ready to begin its rule. That will be an awesome day! Will you be one of those who will enter it? Who in your world will not?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 19

REVELATION 20:1-6

TRUE SALVATION

SAY WHAT?

When did you, by faith, trust Christ as your Savior? Why did you trust Him?

SO WHAT?

What evidence do you see in your life that you have been truly saved?

NOW WHAT?

How can you tell if your actions are the result of your salvation and not just outward conformity to Christianity?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Who are the rest of the dead referred to in verse 5? Where do the people who side with Satan at the end of the 1,000 years come from? The answer is found in the passage. There are two resurrections mentioned in Scripture. The first is of those who have died and have been saved. Those who died without Christ will not be resurrected at this time. John is referring to these unsaved people in verse 5. Only those who are saved will enter into the 1,000 year reign of Christ. Christians who are alive on the earth at the end of the Tribulation will also enter into the 1,000 year reign with their human bodies. These are the people who will continue having children throughout the 1,000 years. Although everyone will have to be obedient to Christ and His rule during this time, there will be some who will not turn to Christ for salvation. This proves that living in a perfect world and doing all the right things outwardly are not enough to make you a child of God. Man's heart changes only when he turns to Christ for salvation. No amount of outward effort or conformity will do. Following the culture, even the "Christian culture," is not enough.

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 20

These last two chapters of Revelation address what it will be like in eternity for those of us who have accepted Christ as our Savior. Chapter 21 deals with the city of Jerusalem, and chapter 22 shows the blessing for us who will be living on the new earth forever. It is truly overwhelming when we comprehend all the wonderful things God has prepared for us who have trusted Christ. What makes this city even greater is not the material that is used, not the construction, not its size, but who will be there. It is a city in which God will dwell. There will be no need for light because His glory will shine and, no need for a temple, for He will be present to worship. Think about what it will be like to live there with your saved loved ones and friends, all the saints of the Bible and, especially, Jesus Christ. It is heartbreaking to realize there are those who will not be going to live in glory. If it is you, allow both the horrors of God's judgment and the glory of our eternal home to motivate you to trust Christ. If it is someone you know, let it motivate you to share Christ with the ones you care about who are unsaved. You can't sit by and let them miss out!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 21

SAY WHAT?

What impressions have you had as you read this book?

SO WHAT?

How do you hope to be different because of what you have read?

NOW WHAT?

How are you going to implement those changes?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

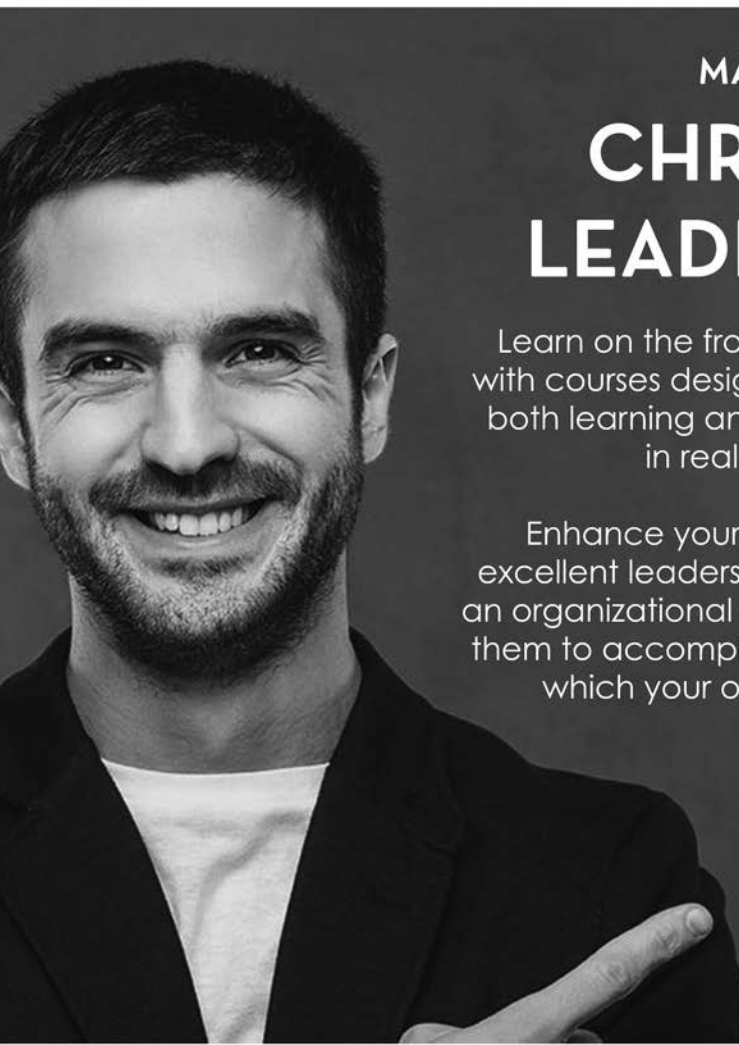
Your journey is over. You have just completed reading the book of Revelation. Hopefully, you leave it with a greater understanding of the end times. In the very first chapter, we read that blessings await those who read, hear, and take to heart the words of this book. As you have read of both the horrible events and the wonderful events that are ahead, you have rejoiced in knowing that you are not going to experience the horrible things that will take place in the future. Hopefully you have been motivated to serve God more faithfully and have gained a greater burden to reach out to those in your world with what Christ has done for them. They may then avoid the Tribulation and an eternity without Christ. Our time is slipping away, and Jesus Christ will return soon. Make sure you and the unsaved people you know are ready. Take some time today to reflect on what God has confronted you with as you have read Revelation this month. Don't walk away from it unchanged! Use today's questions to jot down some ways you want to change. Remember, God's blessing awaits those who read it and take to heart what is written!

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 22



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THIS HOPE WE HAVE AS AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL, A HOPE BOTH SURE AND STEADFAST AND ONE WHICH ENTERS WITHIN THE VEIL, WHERE JESUS HAS ENTERED AS A FORERUNNER FOR US...
HEBREWS 6:19-20

Here I am! I stand at
the door and knock.
If anyone hears my
voice and opens the
door, I will come in
and eat with them,
and they with me.

Revelation 19:6 (ESV)

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