

Revelation Series

Dr. Mike Holloway – Message

Outline/Power Point – Pastor Gangwer

A Servant of the Lord – Part I

Introduction: The key word for this lesson is the word quality. The Holy spirit of God is wanting to convey to us that John is servant of the Lord. We need to take note one of the characteristics of John being that when he wrote of various events, he seldom injected himself into those events by name. He was the one out of three willing to risk his life for his Lord. He was unashamed to stand with Christ even when it was dangerous to do so. He was content to be known as the other disciple, (John 18:16; 20:22 – 24; 20:28). These few verses here and in Revelation 1:9 & 10, are a few glimpses into the kind of Christian life that is pleasing unto God.

We will be looking at six *qualities* that apply to John that should apply to us as well.

I. Quality #1 – is to know that we are _____, (Brother) – Revelation 1:9.

- A. When one always doubts their salvation, they are of little _____ to God.
- B. Here, John is addressing this letter to fellow Believers, “who also am your brother,”
 1. John has no _____ about his salvation.
 2. At this point it would be easy to doubt that one is saved.
 3. When things are going well confidences usually run _____.
 4. When things are not going well, confidences usually run _____ and doubts flood the soul.
- C. We are at a place in John’s life where things haven’t been going all that well him.
 1. _____ was great from Rome and they tried to boil John alive in oil with no success.
 2. So they sent him out in the Mediterranean Sea to the Island of Patmos, a prisoner’s island.
 3. He was cut off from family, from friends, from ministry, cut off from everything.
 4. He would never _____ his family, never _____ his friends this side of their graduation into eternity.
 5. Considering all that happened to John he could have asked, “Why me, what did I do?”
- D. God is wanting us through John, to show others who are going through very difficult times and struggles,
 1. It is important to remember whom it is that we _____ too. (I Corinthians 6:19 & 20)
 2. Who it is that holds us securely in His _____ promises.
 3. That we are not alone in our sufferings as others have, or are or will experience this themselves.
- E. How does this help us in the midst of our suffering?
 1. We know that we are not suffering for nothing, as there is coming a day when we shall see the Lord.
 2. It is a powerful _____ of enduring faith that leaves other speechless and some to seek the Lord.
- F. There are three basic reasons a professing Believer doubts his or her salvation.
 1. They are not _____ spiritually – and why are not grounded because they are not in God’s Word. (John 5:36 – 40)
 2. Because there is known sin in their life that they have not conquered and Satan who is our accuser keeps attacking us over those sins and he is usually right. If there is nothing there, he has no basis for accusations. (I John 1:9)
 3. Because they are indeed not saved though they may think they are.

G. Think of John's situation, an outcast, exiled, cut off from family, friends & ministry.

1. Would it not be easy to doubt one's salvation under such duress?
2. God in His infinite wisdom inserts in the Bible, the book of Job. We can learn here that bad things do happen to good people and even why. (John 9:1 – 5)
3. When people are under extreme duress it is amazing how others will question their relationship with God.
4. Don't become like Job's miserable friends who look at every tragedy as a consequence of sin.

H. Three steps to take if you find yourself doubting your salvation

1. _____ your Bible reading and study. (II Timothy 2:15, II Timothy 3:16; Psalm 143:5)
2. _____ more; talk to God often, pray without ceasing. (I Th. 5:17; Rom.12:12; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2)
3. If doubts persist, talk to your _____, seek biblical counseling
4. But know this; doubts do not come when one is walking with the Lord in obedience. (Isaiah 26:3)

II. A second quality of a good servant is that they can see the big _____ – (Companion) Revelation 1:9.

A. _____ vision:

1. When we find ourselves in dire straits, we tend to get tunnel vision or blinders.
2. All we can see is our _____ and no one else knows what we're going through.
3. It becomes a woe is me and we become obsessed with how hard we have it.
4. It becomes the _____ complex – I Kings 19:10 – 18.

B. John in our text of Revelation 1:9 has his eye _____ on the bigger picture.

1. He knows he is not alone in his tribulation & this is not a one up-man-ship event.
2. "Tribulation" here is the idea of oppression, affliction, distress or straits.
3. John was also acknowledging he _____ others were also suffering for the cause of Christ.
4. He was able to see things from _____ perspective – II Corinthians 1:3 – 6.
 - a. "Comfort" here is the idea of the Holy Spirit (Paraclete).
 - b. John 14:16 & 26; John 15:26 & John 16:7
 - c. We are part of the Holy Spirit's _____ in comforting others due to our experiences.
 - d. It is being able to see the bigger picture; seeing things from _____ perspective.

C. None of us are in our sufferings alone though Satan tries to make us feel as though we are.

1. Consider the overall sufferings of Christ in His final hours!
2. The years _____ suffered and languished in prison for years.
3. _____ spent a spell languishing in physical & emotional suffering as well.
4. Others are this day, all over the world suffering as the vessels of the Lord; we are not alone.
5. Regardless of how we see our suffering, others suffer too, and some far worse.
6. I Peter 4:12 – 16; Philippians 3:8 – 10.
7. Then there is the Believer's Hall of Fame recorded in Hebrews 11:32 – 39.

D. Satan is a master _____, a master at deception and mind games and he uses a magnifying glass to discover personal weaknesses to use against us, and self-pity is one of those avenues he uses. (Rev. 12:10.)