

Thankful for the Ruler

Revelation 1:9-20; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 11-22-20

Thanksgiving Week

Happy Thanksgiving! In a year filled with:

- Covid-19
- Shutdowns and their consequences
- BLM rioting
- Election drama

It can be argued that there is no more ‘faith-filled act’ than being truly thankful in a world filled with evil and suffering and uncertainty.

Life in the Present Kingdom (9-11)

⁹ I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the **tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus**, was on the island called Patmos **because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus**. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, “Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.” – Revelation 1:9-11

What is your ‘vision’ for the Christian life?

Being a part of the kingdom of God in this fallen world, is to be a part of the tribulation that comes from those who hate the King and do not want Him to rule over them and is evidenced by a perseverance that says, ‘King Jesus is worth it!’

Expect opposition/persecution/hatred and see it as the ‘norm’!

John 16:33; Acts 14:22; Romans 5:3; 8:35; 12:12; Ephesians 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Revelation 2:9

The Glory of the Exalted Ruler (12-16)

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; ¹³ and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a **son of man, clothed** in a robe reaching to the feet, and **girded** across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ **His head and His hair** were white like white wool, like snow; and **His eyes** were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ **His feet** were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and **His voice** was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In **His right hand** He held seven stars, and out of **His mouth** came a sharp two-edged sword; and **His face** was like the sun shining in its strength. – Revelation 1:12-16

How do we live this way?

By seeing the exalted Ruler! It is one thing to say that Jesus is the Ruler of the kings of the earth and another thing to see the greatness of this Ruler!

‘The symbols seen by John in the vision reveal not *what Jesus looks like* but *what he is like* – his identity as the searcher of hearts, full of consuming holiness and boundless wisdom, the perfect priest standing for his people before the Father, the perfect king defending them against the devil by his invincible Word. Revelation’s visions show us *how things are*, not *how they look* to the physical eye.’ – Dennis Johnson

Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and Ruler of Rulers, is great and to be feared more than all the wickedness of men.

Keep your eyes on the King! - Daniel 7:9-27

The Priority of the Exalted Ruler (17-20)

¹⁷ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed **His right hand** on me, saying, “**Do not be afraid**; I am the **first and the last**,¹⁸ and the **living One**; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the **keys of death and of Hades**.¹⁹ Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.²⁰ As for **the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand**, and the seven golden lampstands: **the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches**, and **the seven lampstands are the seven churches**. – Revelation 1:17-20

Is it enough to know that the Ruler of the universe is great and to be feared?

No! I need to know that He is *for* me no matter what!

Note that the ‘seven stars’ are in His ‘right hand’ and He walks among the ‘seven golden lampstands.’ The right hand is the hand of power and protection.

Exodus 15:6; Psalm 16:11; 17:7; 18:35; 20:6; 63:8; 77:10; 98:1; 139:10; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 26:64; Job 40:14; Lamentations 2:3; Galatians 2:9; Revelation 13:16

Don’t doubt the King’s love and care!

His purchased Bride is precious in His eyes! If we are engraved on His hands then we are ‘in view’ in all that He puts His hand to! He will not forget or forsake His people! – Isaiah 49:14-16

Conclusion

- ***Thankful in light of the Source of All*** - Ephesians 5:20
- ***Thankful in light of the Resource in All*** – 1 Thessalonians 5:18