

Sunday, March 26, 2023 - "Revelation - Week 11 - Sweet & Bitter" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Revelation 10, Revelation 11, Revelation 13:4, Daniel 12:9, Ezekiel 2:8-9

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Revelation is apocalyptic literature: metaphors/images are not literal but convey a message...same with numbers (not exact values, measures)
- It was written to actual, historical churches → "resistance theology" meant to encourage the church to withstand trials and spiritual warfare
- Just like the 1st century church, we are in the end times/last days
- Revelation 10 = a continuation of the vision of "things that are to take place"...an angel comes down with a little scroll
- The scroll
 - Same as Daniel 12:9
 - Angel tells John to eat it (not the first time)
 - Ezekiel 2:8-9
 - 10:9 - stomach bitter, sweet as honey in your mouth (sweet for believers, bitter for those who don't know Jesus)
- Eat the scroll = digest it, make it part of who you are
 - Allowing scripture to transform us
 - As we understand the word more and more → it becomes sweet to those following Jesus but unsettling/bitter as it pertains to those who don't know Jesus
 - What you do with Jesus determines your eternity
- Revelation is calling us to be Christ's witnesses
- The two witnesses (Revelation 11)
 - Debate about who they are
 - Completely unnecessary debate
 - Whoever they are, they are models for all the saints to imitate
 - We are ALL called to be witnesses
 - We don't have to do it in our own power
- Revelation 11:4 - Lampstands = witness of the church, called to be lights in the darkness
- Olive trees = God is to be the fuel for our calling/witness
- God wins every time...even when we can't see it or feel it...his witness and message can't be stopped
- Revelation 11:15-17
 - Praises of the elders change...the one who IS and the one who WAS (no longer the one who is to come)
 - Great news for believers...but the time and opportunity to repent has passed
- We live in the land between...between ascension of Jesus and his second coming
- As we wait, we are called to be his witnesses

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What does it mean to you that, like the early church, we are in the last days?
2. How has the Lord encouraged you to persevere in the midst of trial and spiritual battles?
3. What does it look like for you to digest the word of God and make it a part of who you are?
4. How do you bear witness to the gospel in your life and relationships?
5. How can you tell when you are depending on God to be the fuel for your calling or witness?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[Glorious - *Martha Munizzi*] - [Rest On Us - *Upperroom*] - [Jireh - *Elevation/Maverick City*] - [Reckless Love - *Cory Asbury*] - [I Love You Lord - *Laurie Klein*]