

Growing Deeper **Revelation**

Week One: *Fighting Fire with Fire* **Revelation 2:1-11**

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. As we dig deeper into our series in Revelation, we will begin this week with the victory of Christ, which he earned for us through his death and resurrection. Read Revelation 2:1-11. Who is speaking in chapter 2 of Revelation? What is the common feature of the reward given in verses 7 and 11?
2. Describe an experience when you have received a reward for something of your own doing. How did it feel?
3. Now describe an experience in which you received the benefit or reward of something that was not earned by you. How did it feel?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. How important is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead to our faith?
5. What does Paul hint about the reward we receive because of the resurrection in verse 19?
6. Ecclesiastes 3:11 reads, “He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.” Describe how God has set eternity in your heart. What does that mean to you?
7. In pursuing God and joining in his victory, we find our identity. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to grant you an eternal perspective throughout your life and meditate on what that would look like.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. Watching the news can be depressing. Of all the current problems in society, which do you feel make you most unsettled?
9. Describe a time when you were able to make it through a tough experience. What kept you from giving up?
10. Throughout Revelation 2:1-11, Jesus commands us not to give up. To persevere in the churches of Revelation was to endure persecution. The evil one is either actively trying to destroy the church or subverting it and calling it to compromise. What are you being tempted to compromise on rather than uphold the message of Jesus?

11. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What is it that Paul boasts in? What “power” do you receive from Christ?
12. With all the things with which we are tempted, with all the ways in which we perceive people “getting away with things,” what is our motivation to continue to strive to do things God’s way?
13. Now read Matthew 16:24-27. What does it mean when Jesus says to “deny yourself”? How does the theme of perseverance relate to this passage?
14. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, pray for strength to endure temptation and love those who are hard to love. Also, that you see God’s bigger picture in the way we are motivated to follow him.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. Reading Revelation 2:1-11 again, Jesus reminds both churches to remain faithful. What does faithfulness look like in your relationship with God?
16. Recall a time when you were surprised by someone’s faithfulness to you or to a cause. What made it surprising?
17. The faithfulness of people can be fickle at times. Read 2 Timothy 2:8-13. What does Paul say about God’s faithfulness?
18. How has God shown his faithfulness to you? How does his faithfulness comfort you about problems that you presently face?
19. One of ways we can define anxiousness is forgetting the faithfulness of God. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, turn over to God all you may be anxious about. If you cannot recall his faithfulness, recall his cross. Know that he loves you and know that he understands.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

20. Define what you think purity looks like in culture. Describe someone who you have admired because they possessed the quality of purity.
21. Going back to Revelation 2:1-11, Jesus says he despises the practices of the Nicolaitians and those who follow Balaam. It is found that they mingled that which is supposed to be holy with practices (eating food dedicated to idols or temple prostitution) that, as Luther said, “Profane the name of God.” What do you think purity looks like to God?
22. In what areas does the world seem to teach and often encourage you to follow ways that are contrary to the life that

God desires for you? Identify the area with which you are most tempted to follow the world's standards.

23. We are all tempted; we all fall short. But like the churches in Revelation, we are called to repent. To turn away from the ways of the world and follow God. Recall your motivation for trying to do things God's way. What are other motivating factors someone might use to walk with God?
24. 2 Chronicles 16:9 records Hanani the seer's words to Asa, king of Judah. In this verse he says, "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His." How does this verse make you feel about God?
25. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What do we need to fix our eyes on? What do we receive in our time of need? How does this help us in our striving to remain "pure"?
26. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God to help you to focus on his love for you and that all of his intentions for our life flow out of his goodness.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

27. When thinking about those who suffer in this world, to which group does your heart immediately go out? Why?
28. Think back to a time of suffering in your life. What do you think the benefit of that suffering, if any, may be?
29. After Jesus washes his disciples' feet on the night he was betrayed, he speaks of the trouble they will face in the world in John 16:33. What reassurance did he give them in this scripture?
30. How are these words similar to the reassurances Jesus gives in Revelation chapter 2?
31. Go back and read Matthew 16:24-27 again. What do you think it means to "take up your cross"?
32. Read the beautiful words of Revelation 21:1-7. What does our suffering look like in the context of reading these verses?
33. As you finish your final FIFTEEN this week, consider all that you have seen of how God has been faithful in the past and all the ways he will remain faithful. Consider Jesus, who was able to endure suffering and death for the "joy" set before him. Know that he considers an eternal relationship with you to be his joy.