TOPIC: THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO REVELATION

The right response to the revelation that Jesus Christ is God, and the disclosure of His purpose for my life, requires me to obey the Holy Scriptures.

KEY POINTS

Revelation: Making something known that was previously secret or unknown, a surprising and previously unknown fact that has been disclosed to others.

Typically, when revelations are published they incite a response, whether negative or positive.

Revelation, from a theological perspective, is defined as God's disclosure of Himself and His will to His creatures.

The Lord has progressively revealed Himself to humanity over the course of history.

God's self-revelation was demonstrated through the names He was known by.

God's name represents His presence, the revelation of His character, His attributes, His power and His authority.

Early in the Old Testament, in the book of Genesis, God is described by the name El, which means "strength, mighty, almighty, deity."

God is also described by the name Elohim, which denotes the greatness, majesty and multiple attributes of God.

Even with these descriptions of God, people in the Bible still desired to know more about God and His name. Jacob inquired about the name of God (Genesis 32:29), and Manoah wanted to know more about the Lord (Judges 13:17-18).

As God communicated with people over the course of history, He progressively revealed more about Himself. God revealed Himself as:

- Provider (Genesis 22:8-14)
- Sanctifier (Leviticus 20:8)
- Peace (Psalms 29:11)
- Healer (Psalms 107:20)
- Present (Psalms 46:11)
- Most High (Isaiah 6:1)
- Victory (Psalms 98:1).

The name Jesus, which means "Jehovah saves", is the culmination of God's self-revelation throughout the Old Testament. Isaiah's prophecy was proficient in summarizing God self-revelation:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 13:11-16 NASB

- The self-revelation of God to humanity requires a response. As John noted: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).
- The right response to God's self-revelation is to accept Him as our personal Lord and Saviour.
- We do that by repenting of our sins and being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- When we have performed these acts of faith, God has promised to fill us with His Holy Spirit.
- Jesus has also revealed His will for our wellbeing as His precious children
- He wants us to recognize our self-value, to understand that we were made in His image and likeness.
- Jesus wants us to understand the power of our faith in Him. He wants us to know that all things are possible to those who believe.
- He wants to fulfill the privilege of sharing the gospel with others, to realize that He has made us a light in this dark world.
- He wants us to continue to live in faith even during difficult times. This is because He has a special place prepared for us and we will be with Him forever in paradise.
- So let us continue to display the right response to the revelation that Jesus Christ was God made flesh by obeying the Holy Scriptures.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Can you describe a revelation (spiritual or secular) that you had received that shocked you? Why was it so shocking and what was your reaction in turn?
2. Why do you think knowing more about God is important?
3. Why do you think God chose to progressively reveal Himself to humanity?
4. Can you share something that God has revealed to you?
5. Describe three practical responses that you can have to God when He reveals His will to you.
6. Now take a moment to thank God for revealing His will in your life.

Prayer Time

Lord, please help me to recognize Your revelation in my life and to respond correctly be obeying Your word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

L.G. ice-Breaker: Spring is the season that people tend do a little "cleaning". What are the things you want to clean or bring order to in your life?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think abc

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

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PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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