

Sermon Text Discussion 5/6/2018

Rev 1:9-20 – “The Exalted Lord of the Local Church” by Drew Hunter

Overview

1. Jesus Speaks to Us (vv, 9-12)
2. Jesus Dwells with Us (vv. 12-16)
3. Jesus Is For Us (vv. 17-22)

Quotations

“This is what the book of Revelation is all about: Patient endurance through suffering, for the sake of Christ.”
–Drew Hunter

“Almost every verse in the book of Revelation is an echo of the Old Testament.” –Drew Hunter

“We all need to have an expanded vision of Jesus’s power and authority over our lives and over all things.”
–Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) What is the first thing that pops into your mind when you think of the book of Revelation? Is it an adjustment to think of the first three chapters as ordinary (but divine!) messages to ordinary churches that speak to ordinary cultural situations throughout all history?
- 2) Discuss the first quote above.
- 3) If Jesus were sending a message specifically to Zionsville Fellowship in the year 2018, what do you think he would say? Would we receive approval or reproof or what mixture of the two? How do you think we compare to the ideal of the church laid out in the New Testament?
- 4) It is estimated that there are more the 600 million evangelical Christians in the world today, and several million local churches that would be considered evangelical. ZF is just one of those, and not a particularly large or influential one. Do you believe that Jesus has personal concern for Zionsville Fellowship as a local church? How does he show that concern? How does it matter whether we are faithful to his call or not?
- 5) Reread Revelation 1:12-16, and review some of the characteristics of Jesus these images are intended to convey. Are these the characteristics that first come to mind when you think of Jesus? To what extent do our thoughts of the risen Lord move us to the kind of response John had (see the first part of verse 17)? In more ordinary settings such as daily devotions, how *should* we respond?
- 6) Note how Jesus responded to John in verses 17 and 18. Drew commented, “The most powerful force in the universe uses that power in the service of mercy for those who trust him.” Discuss the importance of appreciating both Jesus’s power and his mercy. Reflect again on how we should respond to him, keeping both these things in mind.