

# **Bible Dig-In**

## **Revelation 1-3: Letters to Seven Churches**

### **Pre-course assignment**

The first three chapters of Revelation will be our focus for the weekend. Please read it over to get familiar with the text. For background, read Daniel chapter 7, Daniel chapter 10, and Mat. 26:63-64. Write down some similarities you see in these passages about the “Son of Man.”

We will focus on the letters to the seven churches. While Revelation is “apocalyptic” literature, it remains the case that it was written to particular churches in particular situations in history. We want to have an ear to “hear what the Spirit says to the churches” both then and now. In order to prepare your heart and mind for eventual application, spend some time reflecting on things that we must “overcome” in our own time. Write down some trends, ideologies, institutional and cultural “mindsets” or habits, philosophies or “isms” of our own age that are at odds with the kingdom of the risen Christ. Some of these things might be obvious threats, some the more subtle threats that counterfeit truth or sneak up on us gradually. Some might be problems in which groups of people participate without intent to be evil (they may not even notice a problem). Think about the question on a personal level. Can you trace some of your own sinful attitudes or habits to worldly half-truths or lies which you have believed? What is in your own heart that is at odds with the Kingdom of Christ?

It is my prayer that as the weekend progresses, we will sharpen our hearing as we hear what the Spirit says, and that we will deepen our capacity to be overcomers for Christ, just as he overcame and rejoined his Father, triumphant.

Tim Webster

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