

Weekly Study Guide

May 14, 2017

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God Wins

Things I'd like to remember about today's message...

Daily Readings

Monday

Revelation 12:7-17

Thursday

Revelation 14:6-13

Tuesday

Revelation 13:1-18

Friday

Revelation 14:14-20

Wednesday

Revelation 14:1-5

Saturday

Revelation 15:1-8

Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. In addition to the thematic exercise above, you can use this guide each week to lead you through relevant sections of the Bible.

Group Discussion Guide

CONNECT

What was the most challenging thing you did this week?

LEARN AND APPLY

Revelation 17 is an exaggerated, symbolic, and satirical portrait of ancient Rome and the goddess Roma. Read Revelation 17:1-18 and answer the following questions:

- How does this portrait make you feel or react?
- The woman in this scene is described in repulsive imagery but, in normal life, evil doesn't always look ugly. Why do you think this sort of vision of wickedness is needed?
- If sin and evil can look successful - or even beautiful - on the outside, how should the people of God recognize it?

Revelation 18 and 19 represent the reactions of different people to the fall of Rome - symbolized under the name Babylon.

- Read Revelation 18:9-20 to see the mourning of kings who made alliances with Rome (called "adultery") and merchants and sailors who profited from Rome's commerce and luxury goods. Why are the mourners mourning?
- Read Revelation 19:1-2. Why do people rejoice when the wicked fall? What about this rejoicing is good? What about it could be dangerous?
- A voice from heaven calls for action in Revelation 18:4, "Come out of her my people." How do you think this call for action applies to you?

In the message this week we compared the funeral of Babylon to the funerals which Ebenezer Scrooge saw in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The point is not that Scrooge must perish for his sins, but he would turn from them and live "an altered life." What kind of altered life do you think Christians, including you, are being called to by this vision?

PRAY AND APPLY

Revelation promises that the injustice and oppression of tyrants will cease. Pray today for endurance and rescue for those who are suffering, and pray for discernment for all of us to recognize and live for God's good in the world.