

As we start this new exciting season of church, we must really ask ourselves, “But what is church?” Surely this has got to be the most significant question to ask. And maybe even more importantly, are we aware of what Jesus wants the church to be?

We start with the end in mind as we begin this new season. We also already know the destination. It’s Jesus. It’s always been about Him. When people walk into church, we pray that they meet Him. Nothing else will do.

So if we start with the end in mind, then let’s go straight to Revelation. As we go through this book, we see that the destination really is Jesus. Jesus reveals Himself to His nearly beloved John. This letter is “the revelation to John, from Jesus Christ, of Christ, to the Church. Jesus’ shows John who He truly is, and we realise that everything is not quite as it seems.

He introduces Himself as the “Alpha and Omega” and the “First and the Last”. Which is to say, everything comes from Him. The Church was started by Him, exists for Him and will eventually be reunited with Him. Is He really the centre of everything that we do? Or have we gotten caught up with everything else about church. Seems like sometimes we’re guilty of doing everything BUT bringing people to Jesus. How do we make sure we stay on track as we head towards the destination?

As Jesus reveals Himself to John, we see some characteristics of Jesus’ appearance that show us He is completely out of this world. Indescribable. Incomprehensible. Do we truly understand the majesty and power of the God we proclaim to follow? Or are we guilty of keeping Him in our back pocket, only bringing Him out when we need Him to get us out of a tight spot? Jesus shows us that He’s bigger than anything we could possibly imagine.

John’s reaction to this terrifying vision was to fall at Jesus’ feet as though dead (v.17) Though his response shows us that there is something about Jesus that should make us afraid, we also see how there is no need to be afraid. Jesus Himself comes up to John and touches Him, reassures Him and shows Him that He holds the keys to life and death. We’ve been shown the ending; Jesus wins! Do we live with that in mind? Does the church live with eternity in mind?

1. The book of Revelation can be difficult to understand. What has been your impression and / or understanding of Revelation in the past?
2. How is Jesus described in verses 12 to 16, and what was mentioned in the sermon regarding John’s depiction of Jesus? How does that compare to your understanding of Jesus and how you view Him?
3. In light of this Jesus that is revealed, how will you respond? What in your life should change and how are you going to change it?