

Going Deeper

Revelation is a book written initially to seven specific churches (1:11). Before the main vision begins in chapter 4 each of these churches is sent a letter from Jesus. These are recorded in chapters 2 and 3. The letters are both encouraging and challenging for Christians facing pressures to compromise morally and give up because of persecution.

Read **Revelation 2:5-11**

5. What do you think it was like to be a member of the church of Smyrna?
6. Why do you think the description of Jesus in verse 8 is used for the church in Smyrna?
7. What great promise is there for those who 'overcome'? (vs. 11, cf. Rev. 20:8)

Read **Revelation 2:12-17**

8. What had the church in Pergamum come through and what were they commended for?
9. Balaam had advised the Moabites, led by Balak, to seduce the Israelite men with their women and draw them into idolatrous worship (Num. 25:1-3; 31:16). Probably the teaching of the Nicolaitans was along similar lines: that sexual immorality and involvement in idol worship were acceptable for Christians. Who does Jesus say needs to repent (vs. 16)? What of? How might that challenge our attitudes today?
10. Why do you think the description of Jesus in verse 12 (cf. verse 16) is used for the church in Pergamum?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...

GROWTH TEAMS



**Week Beginning
Sunday 2nd December 2018**

Growth Team News

This week is the last official Growth Team week before Christmas. However, do feel free to organise a Christmas or New Year social! Growth Teams are officially back the week beginning 13th January.

We've been reading about Paul travelling around and calling people in different places to be followers of Jesus. This Advent Sunday we have a glimpse of heaven and see all those different people gathered together.

**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever**



God's Plan for all People

Revelation 7:9-17 (page 1238)

Space to take notes on the talk

Talk 1: The Nations and the Lamb:

- Christ is the Victor _____

- Christ is the Victor _____

Talk 2: A Wonderful Hope:

- Christ _____

- Christ _____

- Christ _____

Starter question

- ❖ What is the biggest crowd you have been a part of? How did it feel?

Responding to the talk

1. What from the talk do you think Christians today most need to hear?
2. Read 7:9-12
 - a. Why would seeing such a large crowd in this vision be an encouragement to small persecuted Christian communities?
 - b. Why is it important to know that people from every nation will be in heaven?
 - c. How are Jesus's power and majesty emphasised in these verses?
3. Read 7:13-14
 - a. How do these verses answer the question of 6:17? (cf. 7:3)
 - b. What does it mean to have 'come out of the great tribulation'? (cf. 6:9-11; 2:7,11,17,26;3:5,12, 21; 21:7; Dan. 12:1; Mt. 24:21)
 - c. What do the white robes symbolise? (cf. Isa. 1:18; Ps. 51:7; Rev. 1:5)
4. Read 7:15-17
 - a. How do these verses emphasise the eternal security of Christians?
 - b. How do they emphasise God's eternal care for his people?
 - c. Why are these verses comforting to suffering Christians?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

11. How does the vision in Revelation 7:9-17 change how you think about being a part of the church?

12. Write a poem or song based on these verses that will help to encourage those who are finding the Christian life tough going.