

Inside Out – Study 10 – Transformative Power of Worship

Read Revelation 1: 12 – 18

I have found the following from Tom Wright helpful when approaching an understanding of Revelation. 'It's more like looking at a surrealist painting, or a set of shifting computer-generated images ... [its] about ideas-made-visible, on the one hand, and scripture-made-real on the other. It is, in fact, the sort of thing someone soaked in scripture might see in a dream, after pondering and praying for many days'.

This passage, when used to focus on worship, probably has two themes – adoration/majesty, and loving/friendship.

The first idea/vision (verses 12-16) is to capture the magnitude of Jesus' greatness. (in the passage, number 7 = perfection).

- 1a.** We worship Jesus, King of kings, Lord of lords. If you were writing these verses what words would you use to encapsulate Jesus' majesty?
- 1b.** And, what words to capture his power? 'Every knee will bow'.
- 1c.** When you arrive at church and look around, what do you see, perhaps in the building, adornments, or people, that help you to 'see his majesty'?
- 1d.** What things in daily life distract or perhaps blur your picture of Jesus in his majesty?

Having encapsulated Jesus' majesty, the importance of the King of kings stretching out his hand to you/me (verse 17) and saying "Do not be afraid" is huge. Here is 'the greatest' yet stooping in caring/loving/befriending of you and me. This is the second idea/vision.

- 2a.** Our worship is in thanksgiving for what Jesus has done and continues to do. Try making a list of all that he has done for you.
- 2b.** What do you expect Jesus to continue doing for you?

It is not always easy to get into the right spirit to worship fully. Some days, some Sundays, it is difficult to 'leave the world at the door'.

- 3a.** Give some thought to how you could be helped to really praise and worship on those difficult days. What does the church need to do? How could your church friends help?
- 3b.** How do you feel following a worship event in which you truly participated? Are the following days lighter/higher?

Read Psalm 84

Allow the words of this psalm 'Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere' to dwell in you.