***The Revelation of Jesus Christ***

**Rev 1.1-8**

**Canon City EFC 2-5-17**

MAIN IDEA: We are blessed as we hear & live in light of the unseen realities shown us in Revelation

SUPPORTING IDEAS:

Why Read Revelation? BLESSING, v.3 for those who read/hear/take to heart

WHAT - How do we understand this book?

title helps, 1st line of the book - Revelation *OF JESUS CHRIST*

1st & foremost, this book is ABOUT JESUS – HE IS THE SUBJECT; the One being revealed

We’ve met Jesus in the gospels: friend, rabbi, master teacher, Savior, who died & rose

But full identity veiled, glory hidden

In pages of Revelation, veil stripped back - Initial description of Jesus in vs 5-7

staggered by WHO we see, v.17

no mere information –KNOWING the One being revealed, we can live with freedom & courage

REVELATION, v.1

1st, God showing us things we’d never know had it not been expressed

John didn’t just figure this out – He listened, He watched, v.2

What we have here is what He testified to, everything he saw

& 2nd, if it’s REVEALED, whatever it is, it’s meant to reveal, not conceal; clarify, not confuse

so, if we find ourselves confused, it could be that we’re asking the wrong questions

& would do better to listen to what IS revealed; not debate what’s not

our goal: WHAT IS CLEAR, WHAT IS CERTAIN, not speculation

TIME “*what must soon take place,*” v.1 - impinging, overhanging, decisive - certainty of what God does

“*the time in near,” v.3* - These realities press in

those 7 churches experienced much of what is in these chapters,

while waiting for the culmination of the coming King,

trusting Him day by day until then, regardless of circum

we’re invited/commanded to see/hear, live with expectancy in light what’s revealed here

NECESSITY v.1 *what must soon take place*; v.7 *So shall it be! Amen.* – this is true/certain

God is eternal, v.8; what’s future to us is present to Him

God is sovereign, v.1 – outworking of God’s will is never in question

John SAW God’s realities, v.2 There is more going on than just what we can see with our eyes

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION:

Ask the group what their general impressions are about the book of Revelation.

What is the main point of the book (v.1)? How should that primary emphasis shift our focus going through the book, and help us when confused? How do we experience the blessing promised in v.3?

How does the initial description of Jesus in these verses expand our typical understanding of Him?

What is the proper response?