Sermon Based Small Group – May 17, 2020

**Series: Hostaged by Hope**

**Title: Living as if Hope had a Name**

**Scripture: Revelation 1:9-20**

Introduction

* When have you made plans only to have reality come in and change them completely?
* There is a famous phrase; “Your guardian angel doesn’t go faster than the speed limit”. What is your picture of angels in this world? How much time have you spent thinking about angels over the last year?

Waiting Patiently

* What stood out to you in this week’s teaching and/or passage?
* What are the three worlds we live in (Street, Mind, Heavenlies) and how do they affect us?
* Revelation gives us two pictures of a bigger reality found in the Heavenlies:
  + the **present** in light of the unseen realities of the ***future.***
  + the **present** in light of the invisible realities of ***the present.***
  + With these two pictures in mind, is there any hope apart from these unseen and invisible realities? If so, what are they?
* Read verses 9-11
* Before the vision began, John was living in the reality we are challenged to live in as well: willing to suffer, honored to partner and strength to endure.
  + How are people around you responding to an unpleasant reality?
  + How do these things describe waiting patiently?
  + The “Day of the Lord” is a prophetic Old Testament phrase that describes when justice will be done, righteousness will be restored, and judgment will be executed. Talk about the contrast between the three worlds John is living in.
  + *“When we respond to the light we have, God gives us more. When we don’t, he takes away the light we already have.”* (Larry Osborne, The dimmer switch principle)

Seeing Clearly

* Read verses 12 to 16. John’s vision starts with Jesus and he describes to us the Jesus he sees. Look at each aspect of Jesus and answer these following three questions:
  + What does the picture describe?
  + What are we to “look at” and see?
  + How does this description of Jesus impact you?

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| ***Clothing***: Priest  ***Hair***: Wisdom  ***Eyes***: Fire that purifies or consumes  ***Feet***: Foundation | ***Voice***: Words  ***Hand***: Control  ***Mouth***: Justice  ***Face***: Glory |

* Read Hebrews 2:7. When you see Jesus, who do you see? Pick one of the descriptors and tell the group why it gives you hope? Do these verses help you to see hope as a person?

Worshipping Fully

* Read verses 17-20. Are there other places where people stood in God’s glory? How did they turn out?
* E. Stanley Jones: ***“The early Christians did not say, in dismay, “Look what the world is coming to;” but rather, “Look what has come to the world!”*** 
  + Do you have a plan that will survive a collision with reality? How does the world we live in impact what we see?

Prayer

* Try to pray as though you are standing in the presence of Jesus
* What are the needs in your group?
* How can you pray towards the goals and aspirations your group has for itself?
* Who are you praying for to come to faith? To Alpha?