

Here are five questions designed to encourage deeper interaction for small group use, based on "The Comfort of the Apocalypse" sermon:

The sermon begins by highlighting how the world often feels like a **"mess"**, leading many, even in the Bible, to cry out to God for **"justice"**. Revelation is presented as God's **"answer"** to this cry, describing the ultimate end of wickedness and the establishment of a **"new heaven and earth"**.

- **Question 1:** In what ways do you currently experience or observe the "mess" and injustice in the world around you? How does the promise that Revelation "answers" this cry for justice bring you hope or comfort?

There is a **special "blessing"** promised to anyone who reads aloud, hears, and **"keeps"** (obeys) what is written in the Book of Revelation. Despite this unique promise, the sermon notes that the book is often **"avoided"** in churches.

- **Question 2:** Why do you think Revelation is frequently avoided or misunderstood by believers, even though it promises a specific blessing? What do you think it practically means to "keep" or obey the words of this prophecy in your own life?

John, the author, wrote Revelation while in **"harsh exile on the Isle of Patmos due to persecution,"** addressing Christians who were also enduring "difficult times, persecution, tribulation". His greeting offers "incredible **grace and peace** from God," which is described as a **"deep and lasting peace"** that "transcends the tribulation of this fallen world".

- **Question 3:** The sermon suggests that Christians today face a "non-physical bombardment of anti-Christian" sentiment. How do you personally seek and experience this "deep and lasting peace" that transcends worldly tribulation, especially when facing modern pressures hostile to faith?

Ultimately, the book is the **"revelation of Jesus Christ"**. While Jesus is portrayed with immense **"power and authority"** as a conqueror and judge who will defeat His enemies **"in a single stroke"**, chapter 1, verse 5 reveals a crucial truth: He **"loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood"**. This love is described as a **"present tense"** reality for believers.

- **Question 4:** How does holding both these aspects of Jesus – His terrifying power and His present, personal love for you – shape your understanding of Him and impact your daily walk as a Christian?

The sermon asks a profound question regarding Jesus' return in Revelation 1:7: **"When verse 7 occurs in the future, will you rejoice, or will you wail?"**. It notes that Revelation is "terrifying for the non-believer," but a **"comfort for believers"** because they are loved by Jesus and freed from their sins.

- **Question 5:** Reflect on the question of whether you will "rejoice, or will you wail" at Jesus' return. What practical steps can you take this week to deepen your **"loving relationship with the Son"** and live in a way that brings you comfort in anticipation of His coming?