

The Church Answers Back

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Revelation 1:5-6

“To Him who loved us.” First, we have the Word given to us from John in verse 4. Second, the Church responds to the Word in verse 5. Third, Christ speaks back to us.

This is a picture of God’s grace in calling us. First He gives us the Word; second, we respond to it; and third, He gives the confirmation.

Grace and peace have come to the Church and the Church yields itself to Him.

Study Luke 5:1-8.

What does “yield” mean? “Yield” means to give the right of way, or to give up personal rights. It also means to recognize authority and to submit to it.

- We are won to Christ by the attraction of His eternal love
- The guilt and the chains of our sin have been dissolved
- We are freed from bondage to sin and its eternal consequences

Does it feel good to be set free? Keep in mind we’ve been liberated from

- Guilt
- Bondage
- Shame

The Body of Christ has been set free from death. Its response is praise to its Savior. Some of the greatest songs of praise in scripture occur in the book of Revelation, and it should be noticed that in each there is an increase in the praise that is offered to Christ.

There is something in it like the attitude of a man who receives an unexpected present. A package is handed to him and he says, "Oh, thank you." Then the wrappings are removed and a beautiful wallet is disclosed. He cries out, "Oh, thank you very much." Then he opens the wallet and sees a fifty dollar bill. He exclaims, "Oh, thank you very, very much." Finally, in some little side pocket he finds a check for a very large amount. He joyfully says, "I don't know how to thank you. Thank you indeed, very, very, very much."

Have you ever been speechless? Please see **Revelation 8:1** and **Revelation 7:9-11**.

The praise to Christ in Revelation follows in this order: In the sixth verse of the first chapter we read, "Glory and dominion be unto Him who loves us." In the eleventh verse of chapter four, it is, "Glory, honor, and power."

By chapter five, verse thirteen, the praise is fourfold: "Praise, honor, glory, and dominion." Last of all, in chapter seven, verse twelve, there is a perfect, sevenfold praise: "Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power and might."

Review **Psalm 71:4-6**.

Revelation 1:5 – "To Him who loved" is in the past tense. Does that mean that Christ does not love us now? Of course not!

But when do you and I need love the most? At the cross. Every believer should be secure in God's love, not based on their present circumstance (which may be difficult), but based on the ultimate demonstration of His love at the cross. And that's why there should be a continual praise coming forth from His church.

Please see **Romans 5:6-8**.

The thought is this: When no one else would love us, He loved us. When no one else cared, He cared. When no one else valued us, He valued us.

Ephesians 2:4-5 - What can a dead person do? Nothing. That's why scripture says, "by grace you have been saved."

I John 4:19 - Have you ever met a person you did not like, and that person wanted to be your friend? Some of you might say, “that’s how I got married.” But this is what Christ did for you and me. He becomes our Friend even when we told Him to leave us alone. Now we are married to Him.

Look at **Revelation 5:1**.

He has forgiven us. And He has washed us, believers in Christ, from our sins. The word “washed” means to bathe fully, to bathe the whole person completely.

Please take a look at **Psalm 51:1-2**.

Jesus Christ didn’t sprinkle you with salvation. He didn’t mist you with redemption. He submerged you in salvation and that salvation was paid for by His blood.

Let’s learn more about Christ’s Blood.

How could one Person’s blood do such a thing? We must consider the power of the blood of Christ which was shed as Jesus took on the punishment we deserved because of our sin against God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - His blood washed us, and that refers to spiritual cleansing.

His blood sanctified us, granting us new behavior; making us different; setting us apart.

Psalm 103:11-12 – Jesus’ blood justified us, giving us a new standing before God as if we’d never sinned at all.

Revelation 1:6 - In the Greek it reads “a kingdom of priests”. Our savior Jesus has made us a kingdom of priests.

- We are kings, so we are God’s royalty.

This speaks of privilege, of status, of authority.

- We are priests, so we are God's special servants.
- We represent God to man and man to God.

1 Peter 2:5 - Did you know that:

- 1) Priests are cleansed of sin. **Titus 2:14**
- 2) Priests are prepared for service. **Galatians 1:15-16**
- 3) Priests are to honor the Word of God. **Malachi 2:7**
- 4) Priests are to impact sinners. **Galatians 6:1**
- 5) Priests are messengers of God. **Matthew 28:19-20**

Take some time and study **Revelation 5:9-10**.

Why is this important?

Remember that in the Old Testament times:

- Wherever the priests went, so went mercy.
- Wherever the priests went, so went grace.
- Wherever the priests went, so went forgiveness.
- Wherever the priests went, so went joy.

As representatives of Christ, what is being given out by you? Take a look at **Romans 6:20-22** for the answer.

Those who were slaves to sin have become a kingdom of priests.

Revelation 1:6 - To His God and Father, everything Jesus did caused His Father to be glorified.

Please review **John 17:4** and **John 20:17**.

To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever, Amen (yes).

A. We must learn to honor Him.

The great British preacher Charles H. Spurgeon gives us two examples of how we should honor our Lord's glory and dominion.

- 1) He says to honor the glory of Jesus is to go all out for Him. He says some of you are very much like mice behind the wainscot. You are in the Lord's house, but you are not known as one of the family. Sometimes you give a little squeak in your hiding place, and sometimes come out at night as mice do, to pick up a crumb or two without being seen. Is this worthy of your standing in Christ? Is it worthy of your Lord and Master?
- 2) He also says that to honor the dominion of Jesus is to let Him rule over us. Again, if we truly say "to Him be glory and dominion," then we must give Him dominion over ourselves. Each man is a little empire of three kingdoms:

i. Body

ii. Soul

iii. Spirit

but it should be a united kingdom. Make Christ King of it all. Don't allow any branch of those three kingdoms to set up for itself a distinct rule. Put them all under the influence of your one King.

All our attention, all our efforts, all our passion, all our praise, and all our worship must first start privately. Come to know and honor your savior in order that you can worship Him publicly.

King Nebuchadnezzar sums this up for us in **Daniel 4:1-3**.

Brothers and sisters, if you will not let Him deal with you in love, He will come to deal with you as your judge.