



The Lamb and the Nations

Small Group Work Sheet

December 12, 2010

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

- Was the significance of numbers in Revelation something new to you? What other numbers in Revelation do you think have significance?

Part 2 - Review the sermon

- This week, we were reminded the world doesn't revolve around me and my happiness but God and his glory. How does that change the way I look at life and my challenges?
- Pastor Kurt mentioned Eckard Tolle's book, The New Earth which says, "You are the highest truth in the universe." What examples can you think of in our culture that show us how much we worship ourselves?
- The wrath of God is just as real and his love. The Bible talks about wrath 215 times in 208 verses. Do you think it is important to talk about God's wrath? Why isn't it talked more about today? Why would the blood propitiation of God's wrath be so offensive as to be called, "Cosmic child abuse" by some? Why is it so essential?
- Christ won his victory through suffering and death. How does our suffering and possible martyrdom "fill up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, the church" (Col. 1:24)?
- What would you say to a "health, wealth and prosperity preacher" after learning the role of suffering in the Christian life for the growth of God's kingdom and the spread of the gospel?
- To go from Revelation 5:9 to Revelation 7:9 you must pass through Revelation 6:9, which is the price tag for reaching the nations. What role is God calling you to play in reaching the nations? Is fear of pain, suffering or death keeping you from being involved?

"Missionaries will convert the world by preaching but also through the shedding of blood with great labor and through a bitter death."

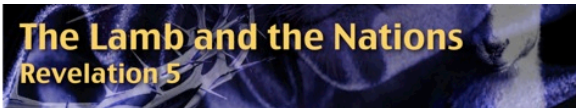
- Raymond Lull

- Do you have the courage to pray the prayer of Raymond Lull and ask God to give you the privilege to die as a martyr?

“There is a great difference between the kind of Christianity that wrestles with whether to worship at the cost of imprisonment and death and the kind of Christianity which wrestles with whether my kids should play travel soccer on Sunday morning.”

- John Piper

- As I look at my life and the sacrifices I am making (or not making) for the sake of gospel, what do I learned about my love for Jesus?
- Give feedback on sermon! Go to the online discussion board to post your thoughts and to read the thoughts of others. I especially look forward to hearing your thoughts on the role of suffering in the advance of the gospel.



Nobody likes suffering. It separates us from life's pleasures and productivity. Suffering frequently looks like nothing more than purposeless agony. There is suffering that is purposeful. Christ can transform our suffering into something that is redemptive. He can transform our suffering into something so powerful that it can transform even hostile nations. How does he do this? Join Dr. Trucksess for a look at *The Lamb and the Nations*.

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Part 3 - Digg deeper ...*get the rest of the story.*

The church is called to participate in Christ's victory over evil by following the same path he trod: the path of faithful witness to the truth even to the point of death. This will be the final conflict of God's people against the powers of this world that oppose God's rule. This is the method God has chosen to use so truth will prevail over the lies by which evil rules. This is the way the nations will be won to the worship the one true God. In this way Jesus will prove to be the one who fulfills all the promises of God. This is the way the universal kingdom of God, to which the whole biblical prophetic tradition points, will come on earth.

Small groups of Christians in surroundings hostile to Christ are tempted to either assimilate into the culture or turn in on themselves. Revelation challenges us to realize God's vision by being willing to take on the whole might of the Roman Empire in the first century (and the values of the materialistic American empire in our century) and win the nations to God by faithfulness in our witness to the truth, especially when it hurts.