

GRACECHURCH

# DEAR CHURCH.

CHURCH DONE DIFFERENTLY | SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2020

## Revelation 1:1-8

1 The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits[a] before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

7 “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”[b] and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”[c] So shall it be! Amen. 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY PASTOR CLEM FUNG

## Recap

“How to be the church when the church can’t even gather” - 22 March 2020.

- The People of God (1 Peter 2:9-11)
- The Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20; 3:16-17)
- The Body of Christ (Eph 4:4-6, 15-16)

## Key passage today - Revelation 1:1-8

v.1-3, Who is this Dear Church letter from, what’s it about, why does it matter?

Gr. kairos = special significant window of time, or moment  
And the time is near

“If hearing doesn’t lead to obedience, then there has been no hearing.”

v.7-8, What makes this message urgent, timely, and relevant right now?

God is Lord of all time, unbounded by time, outside of time; therefore ...  
Jesus’ return will be a time of mourning for most people! cf. Zechariah 12:10; 13:1

Give your heart to Jesus now, before it’s too late

v.4-6, Who is this Dear Church meant for, and if it is for us then how do we live it out?

‘Seven’ symbolises perfection, wholeness, fullness, completeness  
As royal priests, take the message of grace and peace we have received, out to a broken hurting world that desperately needs the same

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY PASTOR CLEM FUNG

Do you sense the urgency and significance of kairos right now?  
What are some things God is impressing upon you, that you must not miss?

After reading and pondering this passage, what do you need to (v.3) “hear and take to heart” ... and therefore obey? What blessing(s) might you anticipate as you obey?



**IF HEARING DOESN'T LEAD TO OBEDIENCE,  
THEN THERE HAS BEEN NO HEARING.**

# GRACECHURCH

**WE ARE FAMILY.**

CHURCH DONE DIFFERENTLY | SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2020

## Romans 8:14-28 NIV

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY SOO CHUAH

## Section 1. V 14- 17

1. Who is the writer Paul?
2. Who is he writing to?
3. What does he want them to know?

## Section 2. V 18-27 – Sufferings and Inheritance

Creation groans v 18-22

Believers groan v 23-25

Holy Spirit groans v 25-27

## 3. V 28 – According to His purpose



# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY PASTOR RJ

## Matthew 5:14-16

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

### INTRODUCTION: GETTING RID OF USELESS THINGS

1. What is the problem? – The world is in darkness and decay.
2. What is the solution? – Jesus Christ claims to be light of the world.
3. How do we apply the solution? – We are to be a city on a hill.

CONCLUSION: “ARE YOU HIDING YOUR LAMP UNDER A BOWL?”

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY PASTOR RJ

1. What do you think of RJ's introductory statement,

*"As Christians, we can't be just a waste of space, waiting to die. See Christianity is so radical that it should transform your world view, your understanding and purpose in life completely, that you would either look forward to death, or you are so devoted to fulfilling your purpose that you want to stay. And it's really hard to justify anything in between."*

2. How much of your friends know that you are a Christian? How did they find out?

3. To what degree do you think they would say that you are serious about your faith; that it is a big part of your life?

4. How would you currently describe your motivation and willingness to be light in your immediate circle? What do you think is hindering you from being a beacon of hope?



**OUR WORLD NEEDS LIGHT AND SALT  
LET GOD'S LIGHT SHINE THROUGH YOU**



GRACECHURCH

# ALWAYS IN SEASON

CHURCH DONE DIFFERENTLY | SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020

## Mark 11:12-25 NIV

12 The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. 14 Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, 16 and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. 17 And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

19 When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. 21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23 "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY PASTOR CLEM FUNG

## BRIEF RECAP SO FAR

- The People of God (1 Peter 2:9-11)
- The Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20; 3:16-17)
- The Body of Christ (Eph 4:4-6, 15-16)
- Opportunity (kairos) now, not to be missed (Rev 1:1-8)
- Children of God by His Holy Spirit (Rom 8:14-28)
- Light of the world (Matt 5:14-16)

## KEY PASSAGE TODAY: MARK 11:12-25

*v.12-14, Jesus cursing the fig tree*

Two things not obvious to us

1. Symbolism of the fig tree
2. How fig trees produce fruit

What Jesus reasonably expected, He did not find

*v.15-19, Jesus clearing the temple*

Jesus quotes Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11

If Jesus can judge and reject the 'old' temple in Jerusalem, what about the 'new' temple of His Holy Spirit, the Church?

*v.20-25, results of the fig tree/temple and significance*

Faith

Prayer

Forgiveness

# APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY PASTOR CLEM FUNG

## APPLICATION: WHAT 'FRUIT' IS JESUS LOOKING FOR?

- Trust in God
- Praying together ... for God's will
- Forgiving others
- Clearing space in our lives, for all people to come to God
- Not putting other 'gods' ahead of sharing God's heart, the Gospel

... IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPING, AND GROWING ... "ALWAYS IN SEASON"

## DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS

After today's message, how do you feel about Jesus' expectation that we should be "always in season"? Where is God challenging you today to grow and bear fruit?

How are you developing on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being brand new 'bud' and 5 being mature sweet fruit?

In terms of:

- Trust
- Praying together
- Forgiving others
- Clearing space in your life to share the Gospel with 'all people'



**JESUS EXPECTS FRUIT FROM OUR LIVES  
IN EVERY SEASON.**