

Revelation 21:3-5

5/31/26

A few questions for our confirmands, "How does God respond to sin and evil?" "How does God respond to the problems of the world?" Jesus Christ!

My prayer for you is that your future, that your life is fueled with Jesus' promise to make all things new.

Never in my life have I seen so many world leaders believe that the world's problems can be solved through violence. This is not Christian. Christians are against the use of violence.

Jesus desires to partner with you, to partner with us to restore humanity, not destroy it. The world needs you, needs us to proclaim the hope we have for humanity who is Jesus Christ!

The last book of the Bible, written about 60 years after Jesus' execution and resurrection, ends not with division-God's Word ends with restoration!

Let's hear the last Words of Scripture in Revelation 22.

Hope is not wishful thinking; it is confidence in God's promise. And God's promise is to partner with us. To be in friendship with us as Jesus Christ. Think back to the very first story of the Bible. God creates us to **WORK** in the garden. I teach our boys all the time, "It takes **WORK** to make things nice, lovely!" If you want a nice garden, you must partner with Jesus. Jesus says, "He is the vine, we are the branches. Live into Jesus as He lives into us." -John 15:5

I have been growing an orchard for the last 6 years. It takes **WORK** to keep the orchard lovely. Sin is constantly popping up. Sin shows up as thistles to cause pain and disorder. I must wear these large protective gloves to pull out the sin by its root. Sin shows up as black fungus on my plum trees. I must look for it and prune the branches so it doesn't spread to other trees. Sin shows up as violent bucks fighting in my orchard for food and girlfriends. I pray that the Holy Spirit will feed them somewhere else (I have resorted to prayer, because everything else I have tried for deer has failed!) As your pastor, I would suggest beginning with prayer. **Begin living with Jesus as your best friend: this is the Grace of God you are confirming in your life.** Jesus lives to live in you to forgive sin, recognize sin, pull it out by the root by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Future hope shapes present faithfulness. I hope to provide a nice house, a lovely home for our family-but it takes **WORK** in the present to live into that future hope. Sin shows up as disorder. Constantly a crop of shoes shows up at the shoe farm in front of the door. It takes **WORK** to create the habit of order to not allow the sin of disorder rule our lives. Have you ever seen a grody bathroom? This is not what the Lord wants for us. It takes the **WORK** of the Holy Spirit through us to wash toilets, sinks and showers so sin doesn't show up as disease and disorder.

How does God respond to sin and evil? Jesus Christ! How will you respond to sin and disorder? Jesus desires for us to flourish and shows us the WAY. Do you trust Jesus? Do you trust God loves you as Jesus Christ? Do you desire to **WORK** with Jesus to bring Heaven to Earth? By God's Grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, you can embody hope in a discouraged world.

The world doesn't need more outrage, fear, or despair.

The world needs people who trust God's promises enough to keep loving, serving, forgiving, and persevering.

Love,
Pastor Curtis

Confirmation Sunday

Theme: Our perseverance is fueled by a promised future—God restoring all things and dwelling fully with His people.

Sermon Notes:

1. The story is not ending in division—it ends in restoration.
2. Hope is not wishful thinking; it is confidence in God's promise.
3. Future hope shapes present faithfulness.
4. How does God's promised future change how I live today?
5. Where can I embody hope in a discouraged world?

In a world that feels loud, divided, and exhausting,
God calls His people to something steady—
to keep going, keep trusting, keep loving,
not because it's easy,
but because He is with us.