



## SERMON STUDY QUESTIONS FOR MAY 11, 2014

**Sermon Series:** The Lion, The Lamb, Our Savior

**Sermon:** "Dressed for Success"

**Scripture:** Revelation 1:9-20

**Preaching:** Bob Hopper

1. When Christians affirm the inspiration and the inerrancy of the Bible, it means that not only are the words themselves ultimately authored by God but so are the arrangement and sequence of those words. Why is the sequence of giving us a clear vision of who Christ is and who we are in Him (the gospel) preceding a discussion of the challenges at hand so important? What do these phrases mean to you: "being precedes doing", "who I am is the foundation of what I do", and "a gospel-centered identity produces gospel-centered living", "the Christian life is not trying to become what we are not, but rather living out the reality of what we already are."
2. Do you agree that "everyone who lives a godly life in Christ will be persecuted"? In what ways have you been persecuted for your faith? How have you responded? What have you learned from this experience? If you have never been persecuted for your faith, why is that so?
3. What does the phrase "in the midst of the lampstands" (vs. 13) mean to you? How does the perpetual presence of Jesus with us encourage our hearts (as individuals, as families, and as a church family)?
4. As Christ's physical appearance and wardrobe are being described in this text (vs. 13-16), what is the significance of those descriptions, particularly in light of the fact that the readers of this letter were facing significant difficulty and uncertainty?
5. How does John respond to this vision of Christ? What is meant by the phrase (popularized by R.C. Sproul) – "the trauma of holiness." Why is a lofty view of the holiness of God so important in the life of the Christian?
6. How does the Lord's response to John's fear portray the gospel? Look up and reflect upon the promise of Romans 8:1. How does this encourage your heart, increase your joy, and shape your living?
7. "As for the mystery . . ." (vs. 20) precedes a clear commentary by Jesus on the meaning of "seven stars" and the "seven lampstands." That clarity of understanding makes the study of the text rather simple! Does the entire book of Revelation contain those same kind of clear explanations of symbols and images? Can you live in peace and power even though the entire future is not clearly defined? What does it mean to "walk by faith and not by sight." What is the one Reality that requires clarity of understanding for every Christian, every day, in every circumstance?
8. Do you have that clarity? If so, rejoice in it and live by it. If not, seek it (Him) in humility and dependency.