

SERMON STUDY QUESTIONS FOR JULY 6, 2014

Sermon Series: The Lion, The Lamb, Our Savior

Sermon: "The Throne"

Scripture: Revelation 4:1-11

Preaching: Bob Hopper

1. In Revelation 2--3 we see the Lord both comforting and challenging seven congregations located in Asia Minor. As you have heard these seven messages about these churches pondered applications to our situation here at Central, what thoughts and feelings have these messages produced in you?
2. It would be easy, but dangerous, to allow our focus of attention to center on ourselves (our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats). Pastor Hopper suggested that Christians typically live in "one of three zip codes" in regards to spiritual introspection. What are those three? Where do you typically live? What are the consequences of residing in your "zip code of choice"?
3. Why is it vital that we ponder chapter 4 and not end our contemplations at the end of chapter 3?
4. When we see the Lord on his throne, what does it mean that Revelation gives us "a description, not a photograph"?
5. What is the significance of the "24 elders"?
6. What is the significance of the "four living creatures," and what are they doing?
7. How do the 24 elders respond when they hear the worship song of the four living creatures?
8. Why are the 24 elders wearing crowns, and what is the significance of their "casting down" those crowns before the Lord?



9. There is nothing inherently sinful about the recognition, plaques, awards, trophies, etc. that we receive to honor our accomplishments. However, in what way does our flesh (sinful nature) distort this recognition and lead us into idolatry? How does the action of the elders' casting down their crowns change our thinking --- and our hearts --- about recognition? What hangs on your "I love me wall"? What needs to be removed (or reframed) on that wall?

10. What is true of individuals is also true of congregations? Does Central have an "I love me wall"? What hangs on it? What should be removed or reframed? What do you think might happen to the congregation that fixes its eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1--2) and becomes preoccupied with the glory of God (Revelation 4)? Will you pray to that end?