CTK Community Group Sermon Discussion Questions & Announcements Week of 1/8/23

DISCUSSION: Revelation 21:6-8

(Discuss the question cluster below - as much or as little as works for your group) *Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally*

We're starting a sermon series called, "All Things New." In it, we'll focus on Scripture's very last chapters (Revelation ch. 21-22), which show us the culmination of the whole biblical story. What we see there is a vision of a new reality. In particular, it's a picture of the new heavens, the new earth, a new city and the new dwelling of God with his people. It's a picture meant to get us dreaming about a future with all things made new, including ourselves. The hope is that this vision of the future will start to shape our present in new ways, changing us and our world.

- I. This week, our passage (Revelation 21:6-8) invited us to long for ourselves made new, but to also recognize what won't make us new in the end. It's God who makes us new and we were made to find life in him, not anywhere else. Still, it's hard to let go of our efforts at finding life on our own and our need to be in control. But Jesus gives us the strength to overcome what we can't do on our own. In the sermon we looked at: 1) The God who gives refreshing (v.6); 2) Who receives this refreshing (v.7); and 3) who doesn't (and why) (v.8). Let's discuss how these things impact our lives.
 - A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?
 - B. Can you think of a time you've been really thirsty and then refreshed by something? Or what's something you absolutely love to drink that really feels refreshing?
 - 1. What would it be like to see God in that light as something really refreshing?
 - 2. What help from God would you need to start seeing him that way more and more, knowing he actually delights to fulfill our true longings?
 - C. What did you think about the fact that to be 'the victor' (v.7) and receive refreshing from God, all you have to do is come to the end of yourself and let Christ overcome for you (rather than be strong enough on your own)? Did it feel like a relief? Something too good to be true for you? Something out of reach?
 - 1. In what way do you need to live more out of a hope that you do actually have Christ as your champion?
 - D. Despite being made to find refreshment in God, what's a way you've been looking for life in "dry wells" or from "plastic tables" (like talked about in the sermon) recently?
 - 1. What's a way the Holy Spirit might be nudging you to see that you need to recover more of a taste for the things of God?
 - 2. What courage do you need from God to start dying to yourself a bit in this area and letting go of control?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

 Registration is now open for the 2023 Winter Getaway! Learn more at <u>ctkcambridge.org/getaway</u>!