

Sunday NightLife

West London Alliance Church

A Study of The Book of Revelation

#1. INTRODUCTION

September 10, 2000

- According to Revelation 1:3, *The Revelation* is
 - a) meant to be _____
 - b) meant to be _____
 - c) meant to be _____
- Therefore, studying *The Book of Revelation* should _____
Galatians 5:22,23; II Timothy 3:16,17
- The obvious challenge in studying *The Revelation* is _____
- The challenge is sometimes worded as a question:
“Which parts are _____ and which parts are _____?”
Some interpreters say their policy is “_____”
But ... e.g., Revelation 13:1,2
- R.C. Sproul writes:
“Conservative Christians historically are committed to a literal interpretation of Scripture. The Reformation principles of *sensus literalis* has been hopelessly confused. To interpret the Bible “literally”, strictly speaking, is to interpret the text according to how it is written. It allows, nay demands that symbols be treated as symbols, images as images, and plain indicative statements as indicative statements. The problem rests in correctly identifying the literary genre of the passage. What is then “literal” and what is “symbolic” or “imaginative” is ultimately a false distinction. Yet in the common language of interpreters there abides the distinction between the “literal” and the “figurative.” This is especially relevant to the handling of prophet texts.”¹
- So the specific challenge is “_____.”
- In *The Revelation*, some statements are clearly _____
5:8; 17:9-13; 17:15; (9:16,18,19)
- Some statements are clearly _____
1:1,3; 22:10,20
- Compare John to James (5:1-9); Paul (I Cor. 7:29-31); and the Lord Himself (Matthew 16:28; 26:63,64)
- Compare Peter’s use of Joel 2:28-32 in Acts 2:14-21
- Compare the four views of *The Revelation*:
 1. The _____ view: “It’s about things that are to happen in our future!”
 2. The _____ view: “It’s about the entire history of the Christian church!”
 3. The _____ view: “’Tis about the continual conflict betwixt good and evil!”
 4. The _____ view: “It’s about the things that were soon to happen in John’s day.”

¹ Quoted from the Foreword to *Perilous Times: A Study in Eschatological Evil*, Kenneth L. Gentry, Jr., (Texarkana, AR; Covenant Media Press, 1999), page x.