



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Revelation*

Scripture: *Revelation 21:1-5*

Date: July 21-22, 2018

Message: *Bad News and
Good News*

—[LET'S START]—

Would you say that you look at the world through a more optimistic or a more pessimistic lens? Why?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. Pastor Dale said that culture's hostility towards Biblical faith usually falls along one of two lines. Some believe that Christianity is too optimistic. Some believe that Christianity is too pessimistic. He argued that it is both. Christian belief based on the Bible is extremely pessimistic and extraordinarily optimistic! What do you think about this argument? Do you agree? Disagree? Why? How does the Bible inform your answer?
2. How is Biblical Christianity far more pessimistic than any other philosophy or religious thought?
3. Read the following passages together as a group: Jeremiah 17:9, Psalm 14:2-3, Isaiah 64:6, Mark 7:20-23, Romans 3:23. How do these passages make you feel? How have you seen the reality of these passages lived out in your own life?
4. Pastor Dale made the point that our hope can never be in people. As Christians we are followers of Christ. How is Christ different than the descriptions that we read about humanity in question number three?
5. When we understand why the Bible is so extremely pessimistic, we will finally experience why it is so extraordinarily optimistic! Read Revelation 21:1-5. What is it about our future home that makes you optimistic? What is it about our future home that you still struggle to understand?

—[LET'S ACT]—

Have you ever met a Christian who looked down on those who struggle with sin?

In his sermon, Pastor Dale said, "You don't hear too many people saying, 'Those people are so stupid, evil and wicked, but you know what, so are we!' You don't hear that except when you read the Bible or meet an informed and authentic follower of Christ. He or she says, 'Yep, it's a sinful world, and there are some very wicked people and evil practices. I don't like it, but I know that evil is just as resident in me.'"

As a group take some time to thank God for His grace. Thank God for His love. Thank God for His forgiveness. Thank God for the gift of salvation that is offered through His Son, Jesus Christ. Then, as you go this week, show God's grace to others. If the Lord gives you an opportunity, share about this week's sermon with someone else. Talk about the beauty of how bad news becomes good news through the hope of Jesus Christ.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- This week's sermon took a look at the beautiful hope that we have as Christians – that bad news can become good news. The sermon used passages from throughout the Bible to describe the human condition and how Christ is the remedy for our sin.
- Below is an outline of this week's sermon:
 - Modern culture is hostile towards Biblical faith. That hostility usually falls along one of two lines:
 - Christianity is way too optimistic.
 - Christianity is way too pessimistic.
 - Christian belief based on the Bible is extremely pessimistic and extraordinarily optimistic!
 - Biblical Christianity is far more pessimistic than any other philosophy or religious thought!
 - You and I are capable of the worst sins. There is more wickedness in us than we even realize!
 - We must remember that Christians are followers of Christ. Putting our hope in anyone or anything other than Christ will ultimately bring disappointment.
 - The only difference between me and who I might label as the worst of all sinner is grace – God's unmerited grace.
 - When we understand why the Bible is so extremely pessimistic, we will finally experience why it is also extraordinarily optimistic!

—[NOTES]—
