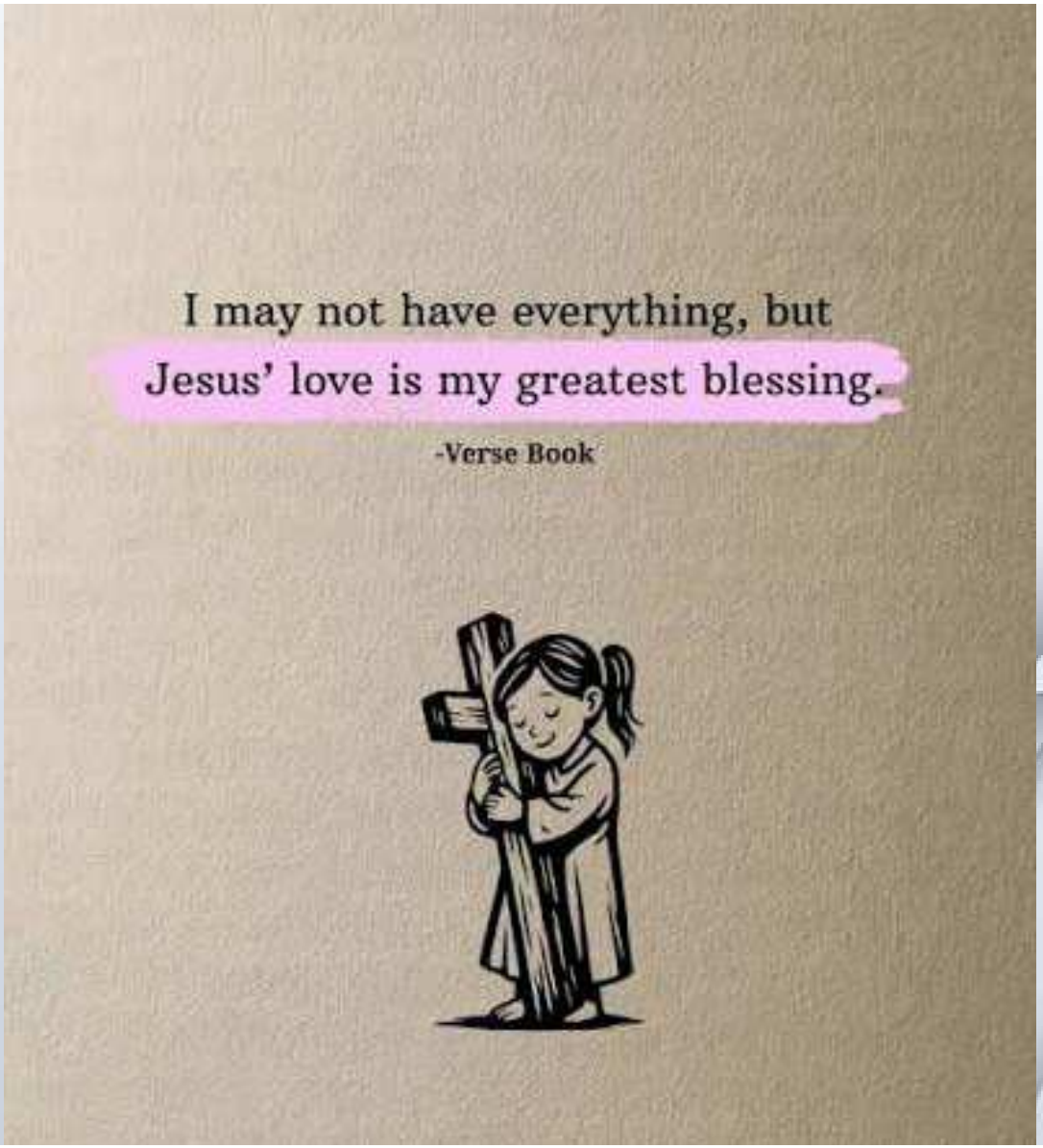
Jesus, Our Foundation



Revelation 1:4-8

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- Refurbishing an old car
- Revelation 21:5 NIV, He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”
- Isaiah 9:6b NIV, “he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
  - Wonderful – a marvel, a miracle, or something extraordinary and hard to comprehend
    - Mark 4:41 NIV, 41 They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

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- Isaiah 9:6b NIV, "he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
  - Wonderful Counselor – describes a leader whose plans and advice bring about supernatural, unexpected victories and solutions that shock human wisdom
    - Jesus going to Jerusalem
    - Peter tried to stop Him

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- Isaiah 9:6b NIV, "he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
  - Mighty God – the Messiah would possess the divine nature, supreme strength, and absolute power of God himself in human form
    - Mark 5:24-25 NIV, 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

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- Isaiah 9:6b NIV, "he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
  - Everlasting Father – describes the Messiah's protective, provider-like character and eternal care for His people
    - Matthew 23:37 NIV, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

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- Isaiah 9:6b NIV, “he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
  - Prince of Peace – the ultimate royal source of wholeness, reconciliation, and eternal harmony between God and humanity
    - ➢ The Prince carried the hope of the future

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- Isaiah 9:6b NIV, “he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
  - This is the Jesus Christ presented in the book of Revelation
- Last week the Book of Revelation was about fully opening up, uncovering, or revealing our Lord Jesus Christ
  - Like a beautiful flower opening up to present itself for all to see
- This week the Apostle John sets the foundation of Revelation and it is once again, all about Jesus

Scripture

- Revelation 1:4-8 NIV, 4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:
  - Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
  - To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Scripture

- Revelation 1:4-8 NIV, 4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:
  - 7 “Look *(Behold),* he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen.
  - 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

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- Revelation 1:3 NIV, 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.
  - Take to Heart - To feel encouraged, hopeful, or more courageous during a difficult time
    - Biblically - means to be full of courage, hope, and inner strength, not by relying on yourself, but by trusting in God's presence, power, and promises
  - We will be shown seven churches struggling with a world trying to push them aside, dominate them, force them how to think

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- Revelation 1:3 NIV, 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.
  - Be encouraged first century Chistian by what God has shown you in Revelation
  - We today have made Revelation a complicated book and tended to shy away from it or hesitate reading it because we lack confidence in being able to understand it
    - Mostly because it is hard to grasp all the details and fit them in our current thinking

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- Revelation 1:3 NIV, 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.
  - Daniel 12:8-9 NIV, 8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” 9 He replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end.”

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- Revelation 1:3 NIV, 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.
  - Revelation does not have to be a fearful book to born-again children of God
  - The Apostle John wants us to know what Revelation rests upon
    - All truth must rest on something
    - We grasp DNA not because we have seen it, but because it rests upon proven science
    - And CSI type shows

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- Revelation 1:3 NIV, 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.
  - The Apostle John wants us to know what Revelation rests upon
    - Revelation rests upon God the Father, God the Spirit
    - And revealed to us through God the Son, Jesus Christ

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- Last week I introduced three questions to ask ourselves when we read Revelation
  - What does this tell me about Jesus?
  - What is it telling me about what God is going to do?
  - What does this tell me about evil?
  - Where will I wind up?

Revelation rests upon that which is eternal

- Vs. 4, *(Eternal)* Grace and *(Eternal)* peace *(is made available)* to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
  - Eternal grace and peace can only come from an eternal God
  - Notice every one of the Godhead is included in providing this eternal grace and peace

Revelation rests upon that which is eternal

- Vs. 4, *(Eternal)* Grace and *(Eternal)* peace *(is made available)* to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come
  - God the Father – "from him who is, and who was, and who is to come"
    - Exodus 3:13-16 NIV, 13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"
    - I am who I always have been and always will be

Revelation rests upon that which is eternal

- Vs. 4, *(Eternal)* Grace and *(Eternal)* peace *(is made available)* to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come
  - God the Father – "from him who is, and who was, and who is to come"
    - Psalm 90:2 NIV, 2 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Revelation rests upon that which is eternal

- Vs. 4, *(Eternal)* Grace and *(Eternal)* peace *(is made available)* to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come
  - God the Father – "from him who is, and who was, and who is to come"
    - Job 38:4-7 NIV, "4 Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone— 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Revelation rests upon that which is eternal

- Vs. 4, and from the seven spirits *(seven-fold spirit)* before his throne
  - God the Spirit - The number 7 in biblical writings represents completeness, perfection, and fullness
  - Everything that is of the Holy Spirit will be thrown wide open
    - Today He is throttled to some extent by the sinfulness of man and evil fighting Him in the creation
    - He comes to bring truth, but mankind isn't listening or doesn't care

Revelation rests upon that which is eternal

- Vs. 4, and from the seven spirits *(seven-fold spirit)* before his throne
  - God the Spirit - The number 7 in biblical writings represents completeness, perfection, and fullness
    - Isaiah 11:2-3 NIV, 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him
      - The Holy Spirit will permanently dwell upon the Messiah *(Jesus Christ),* equipping him with seven divine characteristics to rule

Revelation rests upon that which is eternal

- Vs. 4, and from the seven spirits *(seven-fold spirit)* before his throne
  - God the Spirit - The number 7, in biblical writings, represents completeness, perfection, and fullness
    - Isaiah 11:2-3 NIV, 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him
      - The Spirit of eternal wisdom and of eternal understanding
      - The Spirit of eternal counsel and of eternal might
      - The Spirit of the eternal knowledge
      - And he will delight in the fear *(respect)* of the Lord

Revelation rests upon that which is eternal

- Vs. 5, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
  - God the Son – All of Revelation rests upon the provisions made through our Lord Jesus Christ
    - “faithful witness”
    - “firstborn from the dead”
    - “ruler of the kings of the earth”
  - All of these were during Jesus’ ministry on earth

Revelation is revealed through the work of Jesus Christ in our lives

- Vs. 5b-6, "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."
  - Notice this is what Jesus has been doing after His ascension until present day
  - What does this tell us about Jesus?
    - Jesus loves us
    - Jesus has freed us from our sin debt and the power of sin in our lives

Revelation is revealed through the work of Jesus Christ in our lives

- Vs. 5b-6, "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."
  - What does this tell us about Jesus?
    - Jesus has given us a place where we fit and belong – *"made us a kingdom"*
    - Jesus has given us purpose in this life – *"made us priests to serve God"*
    - All glory only goes to Jesus Christ

Jesus will be revealed in all His glory

- Vs. 7, “Look *(Behold),* he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen.
  - Jesus was glorified at his first earthly ministry
  - He continues to be glorified today in the lives of His born-again brothers and sisters
  - But the time is coming when everyone will be forced to acknowledge that everything revealed about Him in Scripture is true

Jesus will be revealed in all His glory

- Daniel 7:13-14 NIV, 13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

Jesus will be revealed in all His glory

- Acts 1:9-11 NIV, 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Jesus will be revealed in all His glory

- "every eye will see *(with recognition and understanding)* him, even those who pierced him"
- This is not the Rapture but the Second Coming of Jesus to establish His physical kingdom on earth
  - "all peoples on earth will mourn because of him"
    - Because they are looking at Jesus through their unforgiven sinfulness

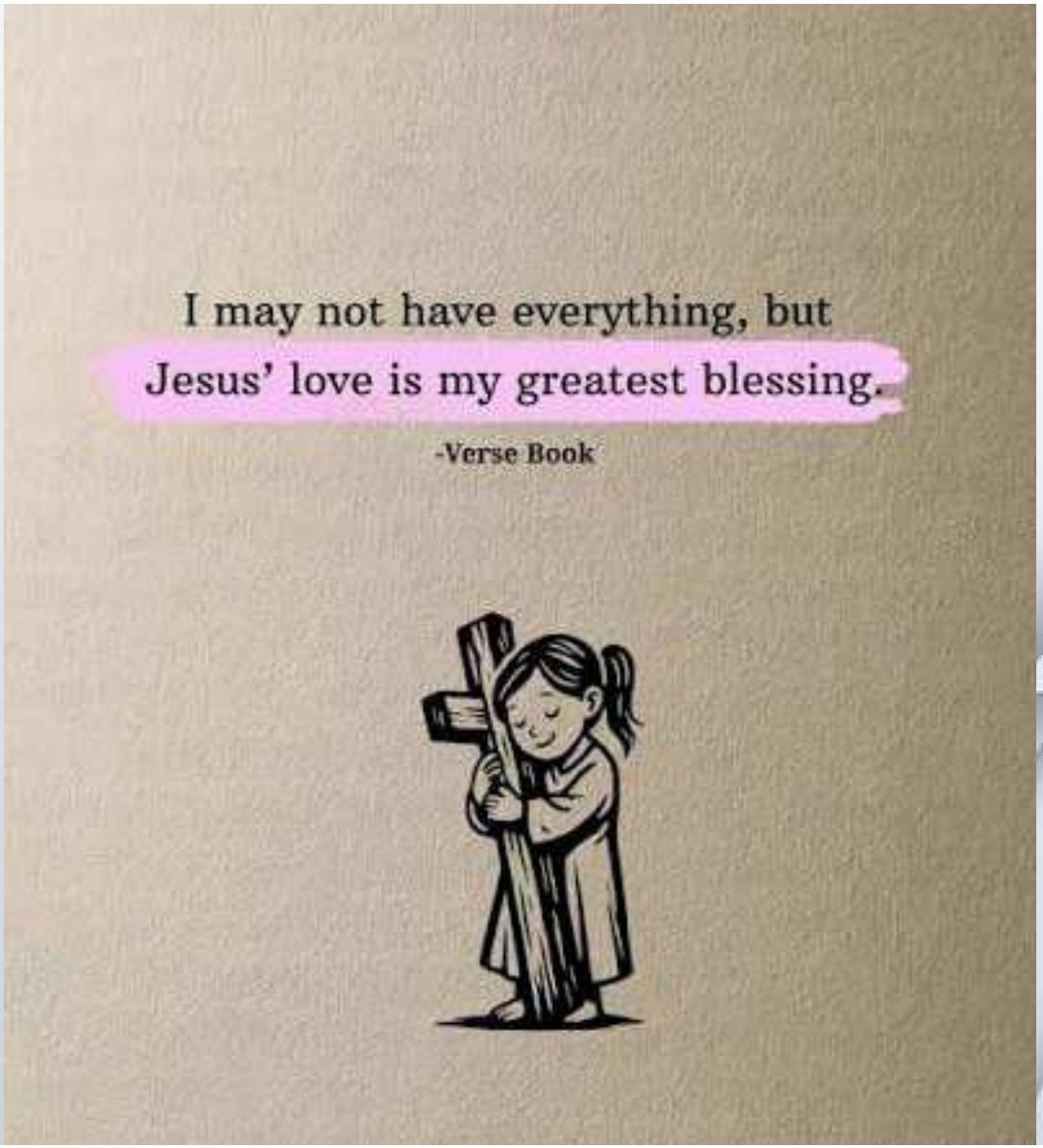
Jesus will be revealed in all His glory

- I hope you have already seen your sinfulness next to the perfection and holiness of Jesus Christ
  - Confessed your sin debt before Him
  - Accepted His mercy and grace offered to you
  - Allowing Him to create within you a new heart of flesh and spirit eager to live as His child
- Christian, Jesus longs to constantly and consistently reveal Himself through His Word and as He works in your life to you
  - But there is coming a day when we will see Him as He is

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- How do I know this is true Randy?
  - Vs. 8, “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”
  - I’ve placed my life and eternal future on my Savior and Lord Jesus Christ and absolutely nothing on me
  - Jesus is my sure eternal foundation
  - Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV, 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

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Revelation 1:4-8