

New Lifer News



A Seeking Savior

by Bob See

I love the Christmas season and the opportunities it gives for speaking about Jesus, and God's plan to save us through the Baby born in Bethlehem. A scripture I bet most people recognize is a prophecy written 100's of years before the first Christmas, found in Isaiah: *"For to us a Child is born, a Son is given...and He will be called wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of peace* – the passage continues to speak of the authority given to this Child and then ends with the assertion *"the zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."*

It's the assertion that the Lord is zealous to accomplish this work of establishing His salvation and Kingdom that is behind our sermon series for Christmas, entitled "The Seeking Savior." God isn't passive or nonchalant about saving you and me. He is ZEALOUS. He reaches out to us and invites us, and calls us – **He is SEEKING us.**

And the story of Jesus' birth involves many different people who God sought after – intellectuals like the Magi, the poor and marginalized like the shepherds, even the powerful and pagan like Herod. God took the initiative and sought them out. From looking at how He sought different people in these accounts, we'll see that He isn't distant from us or passive about us either. Rather He is seeking us too, that we will become followers of His Son and be saved.

I think this series will help us as a church keep focused this Christmas on Christ, even with all the business and distractions of the holidays. Further, I think this series will help relatives and friends experience God's love and see that Christmas is all about a God who is seeking them. **So, New Lifers, please pray for God to touch lives in this series and please take the risk of inviting people to the services this December – after all, God is seeking them.**

Revelation's Rhapsody

by Jason Morris

The third and fourth weekends of November brought author, speaker, and seminary professor Dr. Bob Lowery to our worship center. Bob's connections to New Life run deep. He has played the role of mentor and accountability partner to our pastors and elders for many years, and has helped shepherd and direct our leaders through the trials and joys that come with ministry over the long-term. Dr. Lowery speaks on occasional Sunday mornings at New Life as a guest communicator and has continued to develop a profound grasp of the scriptures over the course of his lifetime. It was our pleasure to host him for two weekends of study and services focused on his specific area of expertise: the book of Revelation.



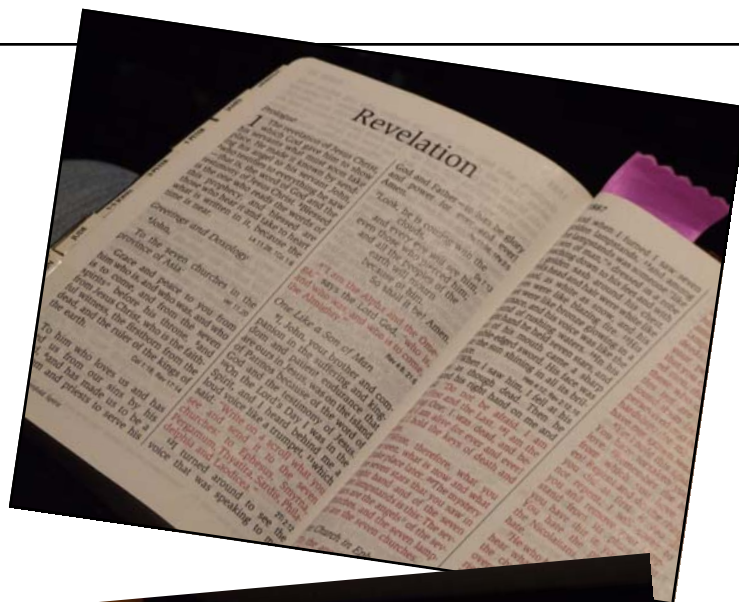
A cross-section of New Lifers showed up to hear Bob's take on what the word prophecy really means, to explore the context of John's words in the book of Revelation with regard to culture and in light of the Old Testament, and to debunk the concept of interpreting Revelation by taking current political events into account. A good-sized chunk of our church body came away from Bob's seminar with an enlightened view of this particular section of the Bible, and with a significantly decreased perception that Revelation is a book that is too difficult for anyone without a degree in biblical studies to comprehend. Bob's disarming style takes heavy and controversial concepts and illustrates them in a way that the average Bible-reader can understand; at one point

Revelation's Rhapsody (cont.)

Bob took a question from a twelve-year-old and admitted his fear about being unable to engage a younger audience—but was affirmed by the young man that he was connecting in a meaningful way.

Despite fighting a physical battle with cancer, Bob remained sharp, focused and ever the academic giant with deep spiritual convictions. He took questions and comments throughout the study, and the general consensus was that time flew by. Joe Derk, a long time volunteer in the leadership of adult education, enjoyed his time with Bob. "I found Bob's insights into Revelation to be well grounded in the concept of interpreting scripture *by* scripture - a necessary rule to keep any from taking one portion of God's word out of context from the rest of it. I applaud Bob for taking a hard stance against religious hype about the book - such hype that has made much money off of conspiracy theorists and self-proclaimed apocalyptic predictors. If Jesus doesn't know when He's coming back until He actually comes, then we won't either!"

During the final session Bob asked the crowd to indicate if they had not experienced this type of approach to Revelation before, and the showing of hands was nearly unanimous. Those in attendance were profoundly engaged and struck with an urgency to respond to the message that Bob opened up for us in Revelation. If you missed Bob Lowery you can hear or see the audio and video recordings of both the study and Sunday morning messages at www.newlifeonline.org by clicking on "Members Enter Here." Material handouts are available for download there as well.



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What's Up With The New Lifer News?

by Teresa Bassett



We're making some changes...and we think they're for the better! In the past, the New Lifer News has been available quarterly. The past two issues have been "extremely" large, with the last one being about 18 pages long. With all the busyness of life—who has time to sit down and read 18 pages in one sitting? In order to make communication with the body more effective, we've decided to send out smaller, weekly issues of the New Lifer News to the church body. The articles will be on a variety of topics, and some weekly issues may have more information than others.

If you have a story or testimony of something that has happened to you, or within your ministry that you'd like to share, feel free to contact me about it. I'd like to hear some feedback on this change, so if you have some time, please send me an e-mail and let me know what you think. teresabassett@newlifeonline.org