



**SERIES: LOOKING BACK – MOVING FORWARD**

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**Wednesday, August 31, 2022**

**Scripture: Revelation**

**TITLE: The Loving Servant**

As a pastor, I've been able to watch people serve through incredible circumstances. For example, as couples age and health fades, husbands will lovingly serve a suffering wife. As sickness overtakes a body, wives serve their husbands faithfully. I remember one couple whose wife had lost her sight, so her husband would read to her each day for hours.

A person could say, "Well, these people have to do this. They're married." Friend, I've seen marriages fall apart because the couple couldn't agree on where to eat or where to vacation. So no, it's not out of obligation. This kind of servanthood is out of love.

Well, as we begin studying the book of Revelation, Jesus has some thoughtful and convicting words for us today. So let's turn to Revelation 1:1-3 (CSB) to get acquainted with this prophetic book.

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, whatever he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it because the time is near."

That's a lot to unpack in under 5 minutes. This Revelation was from Jesus through angels to John. Revelation means "to be made visible." The book of Revelation was not meant to trip us up or create perpetual arguments. It was the final word of God about redemption through Jesus Christ. John MacArthur said, "Far from hiding the truth, the book of Revelation reveals it...It tells how it all ends" (*The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Revelation 1 - 11*).

He has revealed it to His servants. This is one of the best word pictures in the Bible for the posture of a Christian. Jesus uses a word that Paul would often use: *doulos*. It was a slave or a bondservant. This was a person who willingly sold themselves into slavery. But for the Christian, it's so much more. It's a servant who serves not out of obligation but out of love.

This kind of slave was seen in Exodus 21:5-6.

"But if the slave declares, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I do not want to leave as a free man,' his master is to bring him to the judges and then bring him to the door or doorpost. His master will pierce his ear with an awl, and he will serve his master for life."

We, as Christians, are Christ's slaves. Loving servants of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Jesus provided this Revelation to John and us to reveal what must soon take place. This message is for His children. We can see, understand, and keep His message. And this is important because these events must take place soon. This means Christ's return is near. It's imminent. But how soon? Well, you'll have to wait for that answer until another day.

But knowing this message is for His loving children, this is my challenge for you today: serve Christ out of love. Just like those married couples who serve daily without an end in sight, we should lovingly serve God as we await Jesus' imminent return.

How can you serve Christ by serving others with the right motives? Find at least one way. Then do it and do it today.