Week 10// Life Under the King

Romans to Revelation

Intro//

Our tenth and final session covers the rest of the New Testament, from Romans to Revelation. Much of this material takes the form of letters, written by St Paul and other early church leaders to the emerging Christian communities they helped start. Although covering a variety of issues, these writings are addressed to those trying to make sense of following Jesus after his resurrection whilst awaiting his return. As come to the conclusion of God's story, it is in this same tension that the Church finds itself today.

For the tenth video in full, please click here.

Discussion Questions//

- 1. What is the most significant letter you've ever written and/or received and why?
- 2. How do you understand/explain what James means when he talks about both the early and contemporary church living *between the times*? What are the potential implications of this framework for how we follow Jesus in the day to day?
- 3. James summarises Paul's letter to the Romans as being about *God's grace*. More specifically, making sense of what it means to *enter* or *enjoy grace*, or see grace *expand* or *expressed* to others.
 - a. How do you understand God's grace? How have you experienced God's grace in your life?
 - b. Which of the four stages of receiving or sharing grace is most relevant for you right now?
- 4. If Romans is written in broader brush strokes, letters like 1 and 2 Corinthians cover more specific issues facing the Christians then and now. *If Paul or another apostle was writing a letter to you (or your community/the Church) what do you imagine they'd say? How would you respond?*

*This may be most useful as a personal reflection exercise, rather than a group discussion

- 5. Revelation ends with a picture of a new heaven and a new earth with Jesus reigning as King.
 - a. How do you picture heaven?
 - b. How should the biblical portrait of the future shape how we live well in the present?

Reading Plan//

| 1 | Romans 8 | More than Conquerors |
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| 2 | Ephesians 4.1-5.2 | New Life, New Unity |
| 3 | Colossians 1 | Supremacy of Christ |
| 4 | 1John 3.11-4.21 | Love One Another |
| 5 | Revelation 4-5 | Heaven's Throne |
| 6 | Revelation 19-20 | Hallelujah! |
| 7 | Revelation 21-22 | New Jerusalem |