

Taking it Home:

- **Bethel's Vision statement: "Make disciples and lead them to live and love and lead like Christ." (Cf. Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 10:17)**

The object of the vision statement is too "make disciples and then lead them to learn to live like Christ, love like Christ and lead like Christ." How can a person learn to become a disciple of Jesus without someone helping them?

- Who led you to Christ?
 - Who spiritually invested into you?
 - Are you spiritually investing in someone else? Why not?
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- You are never too old to spiritually invest into someone else. Throughout the "Old Guys Rule" preaching series Pastor Matthew has encouraged all of us to be available to disciple or mentor another person (of the same sex). If you are not discipling someone spiritually younger than you, please challenge yourself to find another younger believer to invest in.
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- Like the Scriptures clearly show us the awesome faithful life of the apostle John, all born-again believers will be remembered for their life's faithfulness and life's works. How will you be remembered by other believers? How do you want to be remembered as a Believer? What spiritual corrections or modifications must be made to finish your life well?

Old Guys Rule
John
Revelation 1

Dr. Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
July 17, 2011

Old Guys Rule John

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelfc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of July 17, 2011

Revelation 1

Quick Review: The apostle John, at 95 years old and the last living original disciple of Jesus Christ, is exiled on the isle of Patmos by the ruling Roman Emperor Domitian between A.D. 95 to 98. Despite the continuous tyranny of the Roman Empire's edict of hatred against Christ and Christians; despite the suffering, banishment, persecution, torment and isolation, the "old" apostle, John the Revelator maintains his fervent faithful course following Jesus Christ, preaching the Good news, and investing and discipling numerous men to become future fathers of the faith. John is a dynamo in his twilight years as a defender of the faith and spiritual sage for younger men and women following Jesus. In spite of the horrible persecution he endures for 60 years, John finishes well the life and direction God has planned out for him to lead. John is a true hero of the faith!

My Story:

- Share about someone you may know, or someone you've heard about that lived a very faithful, victorious Christian life even though the person suffered many trials and or tribulations during their lifetime? What impact has their life made upon you?
- Share about someone you may know that lived an unfaithful, defeated Christian life. How has that person impacted your life? Which testimony draws a person closer to God; the person who lived a faithful, victorious Christian life or the person whose life was weak, hypocritical and forgettable?

Growing Deeper:

- What are a few of the ways John suffered abuse and affliction during his life as a disciple, apostle, Christian and leader of the church? Why does Jesus allow Christians to suffer? (Cf. John 15:18-19; 2 Cor. 11:21-30; 12:7-10; 2 Timothy 3:12; James 1:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14).
- Imagine being tortured, boiled in oil (and living through it), being banished to a remote desert island at the age of 95. What were the reasons Pastor Matthew gave to us about how John was able to persevere with complete faithfulness to Christ all the years of his life?
- Despite the punishment, despite the persecution and abuse it is abundantly clear that God used John in an extremely powerful way for the advancement and growth of the kingdom. What are some of the ways Pastor Matthew shared with us about how John invested in others all the days of his Christian life? Who are some of the "early church fathers" John trained and discipled?
- What kept a faithful older man, like John with such a voracious appetite to share the Gospel of Christ his entire "long" life regardless of the cost? **READ and INTERPRET: John 3:31 John 1:1-4; 3:23-24; 5:1-4.** Place yourselves in John's sandals; do you believe you would persevere through the trials and hardships John experienced and still remain faithful to God? Share.
- What do you suppose gave John hope, joy and boldness to continue to preach about salvation through trust in Christ even though he knew it would cost him dearly to continue to do so? (Cf. John 3:16; 3:31-36; 11:25-26; 1 John 5:11-12; Revelation 21:3-7).
- Explain what Pastor Matthew described as the "John Character Principle."