

# Conclusion

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## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Having examined the political, moral, and religious climates of the Roman Empire, please keep in mind their effects upon the Church.
1. Politically, Christians were being killed, exiled, robbed of all their property for refusal to renounce, their religion.
  2. Morally, evils all about them had the tendency to seep within the Church and therefore threatened to strike a death blow.
  3. Certainly the Christians could sincerely ask, “Is there any hope for the future?”
    - a. They saw their religion about to be crushed by such a system and wondered about the outcome.
    - b. Revelation was badly needed to assure them of victory.
- B. Revelation is a series of Apocalyptic images with a message of:
1. Warning to the Church — To keep self pure and from worldly entanglements.
  2. Warning to the enemies of the Church — Through Christ the Church will triumph.
  3. Of comfort to those who sorrow — Reveals freedom from pain, sorrow, and hurt.
  4. Of hope for the discouraged — Lift up your heads; God has not abdicated His throne!

## C. Revelation by Robert Harkrider

The message of Revelation is one which is needed in every generation. While it must be understood first in the light of its meaning for those to whom it was delivered, yet it inspires hope and comfort to the faithful of all generations as well as fear and dread to the wicked.

At the time this was written, the relevant question was, “Is it worthwhile being a Christian?” Weighed in the balance of social disgrace, financial disaster, and often the cost of their lives, the first century Christian might be prone to ask, “Who really is Lord? If He is Jesus Christ, then why are the wicked allowed to prosper? What will be the end of the Christian?”

Today, those same questions are relevant. Though we are not persecuted, have been “petted” to spiritual death. Satan, the god of this world, tempts us to get into the race with every one else for social honors, financial success, and human prestige. But the message of

Revelation rings loud today: **“Don’t measure life by what the eye can see, or the hand can hold!”** Those who serve Satan in his world have their only reward of prosperity now, for they shall all fall before God (Revelation 13:18; 14:8—11). But those who patiently keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ shall reign with Him for evermore (Revelation 14:12—13)

Being a Christian is a worthwhile endeavor regardless of what might occur in the flesh (Matthew 10:28), for Jesus Christ truly is “Lord of Lords and King of Kings” (Revelation 17:14).