

Weekly Bible Study group – October 7, 2009

This week's reading assignment: John 1:1-18
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Welcome back to *group*!

We're covering a lot of ground in tonight's service. Actually, we're covering all ground, ever. All the way from the very beginning of the universe up until that final day when God steps into the world and sets it right once and for all – the glorious day that we hope and work for.

In our songs and scripture readings tonight, we're remembering that God has made a marvelous promise to this world. The scene is imagined in Revelation 21 with the vision of the holy city of God descending to the earth, and the proclamation that "Now God dwells with the people!" Every tear wiped away, God here with us, no more pain, everything light.

We begin with that vision of our future, because that helps us understand what's happening in the first chapter of John. Here we see God step into our history, the light of the world dwelling among darkness. Like one single radiant beam, illuminating the world and reminding us that God will one day rule here fully, even as his rule has begun in Jesus Christ. Think of it – 2,000 years ago, a light broke into the world. And one day that same light will be All in All (as the apostle Paul says), filling the earth with the glory and peace and love of the LORD.

As God's people today, if we're willing to hear the good news and respond, we get the privilege of joining in the story and spreading that same light that Jesus brought. And we believe that the light *cannot*, ultimately, be overcome by the darkness.

So be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Discussion Questions: John 1:18 tells us that no one has fully seen God, but that Jesus has made God known to us. What do you think John is really saying here? What are the implications of this idea for how we know God and God's will in our own lives?