



PACIFIC
CROSSROADS
CHURCH

April 22, 2018

REVELATION

A RENEWED IMAGINATION

Reflections

This Jesus of Nazareth, the incarnate gospel of love, this 'Redeemer' who brought blessedness and victory to the poor, the sick, and the sinners—was he not the seduction in its most uncanny and irresistible form . . . And could spiritual subtlety imagine any *more dangerous* bait than this? Anything to equal that enticing, intoxicating, overwhelming, and undermining power of that symbol of the 'holy cross,' that ghastly paradox of a 'God on a cross,' that mystery of an unimaginable ultimate cruelty and self-crucifixion of God *for the salvation of man*?

- Friedrich Nietzsche (italics his)

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.

- C.S. Lewis

Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

'Nocturne in Black and Gold - The Falling Rocket' by James Whistler, 1875

'Revelation: A Renewed Imagination' logo by Jesse Wu

Scripture

Revelation 1:20-2:7

²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

^{2:1} “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

² “‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.


⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

Sermon

The Love You Had at First
Russ Hightower

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Events & News

PCC Women's Retreat, April 27-29

Women of PCC - you're invited for a refreshing weekend of connection, fellowship and worship. Retreat with us to Calabasas as we grow closer together. We have just a few spots left, so sign up today right after the service.

The Book of Revelation: Digging Deeper, April 22, 23

This interactive workshop will give an overview of the content of Revelation, teach you how to interpret apocalyptic literature, and give guidance on how to read this in personal devotions. There will be an extended version on Monday night and a shortened version on Sunday.

View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, PacificCrossroads.org/Events, or speak with someone at the 'New Here?' tent.

Ministry Resources

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org or call our office at 310.551.0081.

Celebrate Recovery

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery.