

THE THRONE OF OUR LIVES

Are we committing throne theft?

What or who is sitting on the throne of your life?

Simply follow the trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money, and your loyalty. At the end of that trail you'll find whatever or whomever is on that throne.

A THRONE INVENTORY IS COMING SOON

Revelation 22:12-16

THE OPEN INVITATION TO ANYONE

Revelation 22:17-20

THE PRAYER THAT SHOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PRAY

Revelation 22:21

THE REWARD

Revelation 3:21

IT MATTERS NOW "Avoiding Throne Theft"

RECAP OF THE 7 LETTERS

Ephesus // *Return to your first love.*

Smyrna/Pergamum // *Remain faithful amidst difficult times.*

Thyatira // *Represent and reflect Christ more than culture.*

Sardis // *Carry out the mission of Christ today and don't rely on your past.*

Philadelphia // *Keep fighting the good fight. Don't give up. Persevere.*

Laodecia // *Be you and not someone else. Take off the masks.*

THE THRONE IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus did not dip into his deity to live out his humanity.

Simply stated – Jesus did not use the God card.

In Jesus' life, he did not commit throne theft – even though he had the right!

Throne Theft =

Putting someone else, yourself, or something on the throne instead of God

THE REWARD FOR CHRIST

Ephesians 1:20

Colossians 3:1

Hebrews 1:3

Hebrews 8:1

Hebrews 10:12

Hebrews 12:2

1 Peter 3:22

Message given by Brandon Grant, Lead Pastor of Rise City Church

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****Turn to the back page of this handout for continued message outline.***

IT MATTERS NOW// Avoiding Throne Theft

Passage: Revelation 22:6-21

Date: Sunday 10/30/2016

Sermon Based Life Group Materials

FOR STARTERS

Who was your favorite teacher in school growing up? What made them your favorite?

QUICK REVIEW

Trust and control are some of the most common struggles of life, especially when it comes to our relationships with God. This week's message (and the It Matters Now series) gets to the heart of the issue of who is on the throne. The "throne" is a metaphor for who is in charge and in control of our lives. When we put our faith in Jesus, we are saying yes to him being Savior and Lord – the one who is lovingly in charge of our lives. Jesus, who was equal to God the Father, modeled for us what it looks like to fully submit ourselves to God, thus becoming an example for us to follow. The problem is that we sometimes place ourselves, other people and other things on that throne. The last chapter of Revelation is a warning to those who insist and persist on life on their own terms. There is also an invitation and reward to those who persevere in keeping Jesus on the throne of their lives until he returns.

STUDY & SHARE

1. Read and reflect on Revelations 22:12-21.
 - a. What was Jesus' final warning in the final book of the bible?
 - b. Why does there seem to be a sense of urgency in this passage?
2. This week's message discussed the idea of "thrones."
 - a. Would you describe your current life and relationship with God as allowing God to be on the throne? Explain why or why not.
 - b. In what ways do you put yourself on the throne of your life? What are some examples of ways you have put people or things on the throne of your life?

GROUP CHALLENGE!!!

Discuss the following as a group: Of the 7 letters and messages taught at Rise City Church over the past 2 months, which ones did you most connect to and why? Which ones did you feel most challenged and encouraged by?

Next take 15-20 minutes during your group to individually write a letter to yourself from God. Consider those things you were most challenged by and why from this series. What would God affirm in your life and relationship with Him? What would he correct and why? What may he be calling you to remember and repent of in order to more faithfully follow him?

Lastly, collect (that night, or over the next week) all of the letters written. Self address them and give them to your Life Group Leaders. Your letter will be held for 3 months and mailed to you by Rise. Your letter will be completely confidential and not read by anyone but you.

FOR PRAYER

Spend some time thanking God together for His Word and the privilege to know Him. Pray for each other to remain faithful in putting Jesus on the throne of your life and ask also for Jesus to be on the throne of Rise City Church.