Message Outline A Last Word on the 2021 Word **Revelation 21:1-5**



Intro: Last week: dinner times for divisive times...importance of hospitality!

- Next week: unveiling 2022 Word...
- Today: looking back at 2021 Word NEW...

NEW in 2021

1) NEW

- 2) NEW
- 3) NEW

Read: Revelation 21:1-5

- "New" used 44x in NT...4x in these 5 verses alone!
- Pictures as perspective pieces...

Picture Points in Revelation 21

v.1

v.2

- -"sea" as symbol of fear/disorder/chaos... -God's got water in heaven (cf.Rev.22, Ezek.47), but not fear/disorder/chaos...

-Wedding day expectation, preparation,

and transformation... -The wedding and the One who changes everything!!!

- v.3 -Heaven's defining feature: God's presence with people..mentioned 3x here! -Heaven is filled with God...won't like it if you don't like God!
- v.4 -Wiping away past tears... -No more of worst things endured...
- NEW...and a word that is true (v.5)!!!

*How do we access the newness? **Read:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Jesus is the entryway...
- Now/not yet of Kingdom living...
- "If" shows it's not automatic but must be accepted...

Small Group Reflection Ouestions (Please take time to ponder and pencil in to prep for this week's small group session.)

*GROUP GAME!!! Ice breaker activity to share at least one story that happened since last we met.

Read: Colossians 1 *From this passage, what do you notice about how *Christians are to live?*

*What spoke to you this past Sunday (ie. what made you laugh, learn, look deeper at life etc.)?

*Justin shared Sunday that Rev.21 is a picture of heaven, so here are 2 picture questions: 1) if something was happening to your house and you could take only one picture, which would you grab and why? 2) if you could go anywhere in the world and pose for a pic, where would you go and who would you take?

*What from earth, besides people, do you most hope is in heaven too? What is one question you've always had about heaven?

*If you had to pick a 2022 Word of the Year for the church, which word would you pick?