

Letter 179

The Testimony Of Jesus

*"If they won't read the Book of Revelation,
maybe they'll read an anonymous janitor's blog"*

Angel Gabe

2013-04-12

Dear Dan,

Recently I heard a phrase attributed to John Calvin regarding the Book of Revelation. It goes something like this;

"I have read Revelation but I don't understand it..."

I have not personally investigated whether Calvin actually said this, but I do trust the two separate sources I heard by podcast that made the same reference to Calvin's words, and I have heard two other Believers say almost the exact same thing directly to me.

One was (CB1), who more than once over the years told me that he tended to avoid the Book of Revelation because he thought it was "way out there".

Another Brother (CB28), who is a bus driver and Deacon at a Church (U13) not far from (G6) was telling me about a book that he (and his church) had read that was really compelling and that encouraged his Christian walk. He was anxious for me to read it too. So I made a deal with him. I would get the book, and listen to the audio version if he would read the first three chapters of Revelation. He hesitated at first, but then agreed after I gave him some "robust encouragement". But as part of his hesitant agreement to read Revelation, these words came out of his mouth;

"... OK, but I probably won't understand it".

The exchange with (CB28) happened about a year ago, and it was after that I heard via podcasts from the two reliable sources about John Calvin's almost identical comment.

Where does this notion of not being able to understand a book of the Bible, in this case Revelation, come from? And why should that (perceived) inability dissuade anyone from reading it? Revelation is after all part of God's written Word. And it promises a special blessing to all who read it!

Why is there an apparent "anti-Revelation" theme that has affected three different Christian men across centuries of time and thousands of miles? Does this same curse affect other Believers as well?

1) *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place.*

And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, 2) who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

3) ***Blessed*** is he who ***reads***
and
those who ***hear***
*the words of this prophecy, and ***keep****
those things which are written in it;
for the time is near.

Revelation 1:1-3

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus