

# A Hard Look at Freedom

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## Important Items in Worship

1. The church heard a testimony by Jay and Christine Carr, describing their “rock star” servant in preschool who loved and accepted their child. “Be a Rock Star” is the current volunteer enlistment campaign in progress at Westwood.
2. David Johnson mentioned being a part of a Home Group and encouraged all Westwood members to join one. The next connection event is coming in August. For more information, visit [eWestwood.org/groups](http://eWestwood.org/groups).

## Outline of Sermon

1. The Position of Christ
2. The Portrait of Christ
3. The Provision of Christ

**Scripture:** Rev. 1:12-20

<sup>12</sup>I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," <sup>14</sup>dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup>His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup>I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

<sup>19</sup>"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. <sup>20</sup>The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels <sup>20</sup>of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

## **Other Passages Sited**

Rev. 1:12-20

Rev. 20

Rev. 20:11-12

Rev. 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it,

Isaiah 6:1-5

## **Group Session**

### **Opening Question**

What comes to your mind when you hear the phrase “judgment day”?

### **Digging for Truth**

1. Writer Dr. Mark Dever said, “We may temporarily ignore him, but we can never permanently avoid him.” David talked about us temporarily ignoring God in many ways. What are some of the ways believers temporarily ignore God today?
2. 2 Cor. 5:9-10 says, “Therefore, we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done...”

How does it make you feel knowing that we will ultimately give account for how we’ve lived our life here on earth?

3. Rev. 1:3 says, “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it.”

What kind of blessing do you think this verse alludes to?

4. David said that we need to make decisions in the present in light of the future. What are some different categories of decisions people make and list possible results of those decisions.

### **Closing Thoughts**

What decisions in your life need to be made in light of the future? How can the group pray for you?