

Father making intercession for us. It is tremendous, the glory of Christ, and yet of course also His love, His sympathy, His nearness to us, we want both aspects, and in the Gospels we get the aspect very fully of His love, His tenderness, His sympathy, His compassion. Here we get His marvelous (9) and I don't think anybody can fail to get the blessing from the study of this first chapter of Revelation. If there is much in Revelation you don't understand, well, you cannot but understand most of what is in chapter 1, and get a tremendous blessing from it, ~~and~~ ^{if you} will think about it and make it a part of yourself. It is a tremendous chapter. Now in Rev. 1, there is an incidental thing which I think is worth our being familiar with in these days.

I have known people who said, well, in the early church everybody was equal. They were all equal, and there is nobody had the leadership over them except the apostles, and the apocalypse had ended. This thing of having a minister in the church today is a recent development, I don't know how widespread that teaching is, but it is widespread enough that you will all come in contact with it sometime in your life. You will sometime meet somebody who says it is wrong having ministers in the church. Well, now, I admit readily that there is great damage that comes from the attitude of many people who think that they have hired a minister to be religious. He is a religious man, and people, they hire him to study the Bible, why should they study the Bible, he is hired to do that. He studies the Bible for them, he prays for them, he does the personal work, he tries to lead souls to Christ for them, he is their representative, he does their religious life for them. I don't know whether they expect him to go to heaven for them in the end, or not. The minister is not our representative like that, he is our leader, not our representative. And the minister has not a--is not one who can lord it over a flock, he is one who leads, to try to induce people, to show them how they should follow, to present the Word of God to them. The Roman Catholic idea that puts him up on a pedestal, like God, is the same dangerous idea, because the man who is put on a pedestal where he doesn't