

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Gain and Celebrate Victory

SERMON REFERENCE: Revelation 15 - 16

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2355

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There is coming a great day of victory - when the Lord Jesus Christ comes again.
- b) These chapters in the book of the Revelation show us three principles about victory:
 - i) How to gain the victory.
 - ii) How to celebrate the victory.

2) VICTORY STANDS ON THE RELIANT WORD OF GOD (Revelation 15:1-2)

- a) The antichrist will regiment everyone and everything during The Great Tribulation.
 - i) We see evidences of this capability in society today with biometric identifiers such as fingerprint and eye scanners.
- b) Those in Heaven during this time are praising God because they have received victory over the beast, the mark and the image.
 - i) Revelation 15:2
 - (1) The “sea of glass” refers to a great basin or laver in Solomon’s temple called a “sea.”
 - (a) 1 Kings 7:23
 - (2) This laver or basin symbolized the Word of God.
 - (a) Before the priest would go into the temple or tabernacle to worship, he would first wash in this laver.
 - (b) This symbolizes the Word of God that cleanses from all sin.
 - (i) Ephesians 5:26
 - (ii) The Word of God is the fulfillment of this symbolism in the Old Testament.
 - ii) During the time in 1 Kings, the priests washed in the basin; but during this time in Revelation, the saints do not wash in it.
 - (1) The sea has crystalized, and they stand upon it.
 - (2) Revelation 4:6
 - (a) It is called the Crystal Sea and is before the throne.
 - (b) The saints who have come out of The Great Tribulation, perhaps many of them martyred, are standing on the Word of God.
 - (c) The Crystal Sea symbolizes God’s Word.
- c) We will live in victory as we learn to stand upon the solid Word of God.
- d) God gave Joshua a formula for victory when he was going into Canaan.
 - i) Joshua 1:8
 - ii) The Word of God is to be in our mouths if we want to live in victory in our neighborhoods, our schools, our businesses, and in our lives.
- e) Ephesians 4:29
- f) We are to speak the Word of God; it is to be in our mouths.
 - i) The Word of God should not just be in our heads, but we are to verbalize it and learn to quote it.
 - ii) When we verbalize the Word of God, we vitalize it.

- (1) John Bunyan, who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, was converted when he overheard a conversation between women about the Word of God and was convicted.
 - (2) If someone were to eavesdrop on your conversation, would it lead them to Christ?
 - g) The Word of God is to be in our minds; we are to meditate on the Word of God.
 - i) Joshua 1:8
 - ii) Meditation is like a song that we cannot get out of our minds, and we find ourselves humming the tune over and over again.
 - iii) When we meditate on God's Word, we are thinking God's thoughts.
 - h) We are to obey the Word of God.
 - i) Joshua 1:8
 - ii) It is obeying the Word of God that begins to make the Bible burst aflame.
 - iii) John 14:21
 - iv) Reading the Bible gives us knowledge about God; obeying the Bible gives us knowledge of God.
 - (1) God becomes real to us when we obey Him.
 - i) To gain and celebrate victory, we must plant our feet firmly upon the Word of God.
 - i) In this generation, we both wash in it and stand on it.
 - ii) In Heaven, we won't need to wash anymore because we will be made perfectly whole.
 - iii) But we will forever stand upon the Word of God.
- 3) VICTORY SINGS OF THE REDEEMING WORKS OF GOD (Revelation 15:3-4)
- a) Victory's song is not singing what we have done, but it is seeing and singing the works of Almighty God.
 - i) These are works of redemption: the song of Moses and the Lamb.
 - (1) The song of Moses is the first recorded song in the Bible.
 - (a) Exodus 15:1-19
 - (b) It is the song the children of Israel sang as they came through the Red Sea.
 - (i) The children of Israel did not sing in Egypt; they groaned in Egypt.
 - (ii) God brought them out and redeemed them by the blood of the Passover Lamb.
 - (iii) They came through the Red Sea and now sing a song of redemption.
 - (2) The song of the Lamb is the last recorded song in the Bible.
 - (a) Both of these songs are songs of redemption.
 - b) Only the redeemed can truly sing.
 - c) The way we celebrate the Lord Jesus is to sing of His works.
 - i) If you have been redeemed, you are to praise the Lord.

- (1) Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.
 - ii) It is praise to God that precedes and follows every victory.
 - iii) If we do not praise, then we are not going to have victory.
 - (1) We will praise Him in Heaven.
 - (2) When Israel came into the Promised Land, they decided that the tribe of Judah would go in first because Judah means “praise.”
 - d) We are to sing in the face of problems.
 - i) Acts 16:22-26
 - (1) Paul and Silas, who had been arrested and thrown into a Philippian jail for preaching the Gospel, sang praises to God.
 - (a) When Paul and Silas began to sing and praise God, that’s when God sent the earthquake to free them.
 - (i) Evangelism is as much caught as it is taught.
 - (ii) When others see us praising the Lord, they know that we believe what we preach.
 - 1. Like the Philippian jailer, they soon will believe it, too.
- 4) VICTORY CELEBRATES THE WRATH OF GOD (Revelation 15:4-8)
- a) We celebrate victory by knowing that not one sin will ever go unpunished.
 - i) Our sin will be punished.
 - ii) The only question is who will bear that punishment?
 - (1) Our sin will either be pardoned in Christ or punished in Hell, but it will not be overlooked.
 - (a) All sin is dealt with.
 - b) Revelation 15:6
 - i) Seven angels come from the temple to judge.
 - (1) It is a righteous judgment.
 - (a) They are wearing white robes.
 - (2) It is a sovereign judgment.
 - (a) They have on golden girdles which represent the priests and the King.
 - (3) It is a solemn judgment.
 - (a) They have bowls of wrath.
 - (4) It is a sure judgment.
 - (a) The Bible says that no man could enter into the temple until the seven plagues are fulfilled.
 - ii) The temple is filled with smoke, which speaks of the judgment of God consuming the sacrifice.
 - c) God begins to pour out His wrath upon the world with these seven bowls of wrath.
 - i) Contagious sores.
 - (1) Revelation 16:1-2
 - (2) The mark of the beast turns into a cankerous, contagious sore that is incurable.

- ii) Contaminated seas
 - (1) Revelation 16:3
 - (2) The sea becomes, not blood, but as blood.
- iii) Corrupted streams
 - (1) Revelation 16:4-7
 - (2) God does not forget the slaying of His saints.
 - (a) God is on His throne.
 - (3) The same Jesus who turned water into wine will turn water into blood according to this passage.
- iv) Consuming sun
 - (1) Revelation 16:8-9
 - (2) When the Lord Jesus was crucified, the sun hid its face and refused to shine; but when Jesus Christ is manifest in all His glory, there will be erupting flames of fire and judgment.
 - (3) The heat will be intense.
 - (a) Instead of causing people to repent, it will cause them to blaspheme God.
 - (i) If the love of God does not bring you to repentance, then the judgment of God will not bring you to repentance.
- v) Confounded sinners
 - (1) Revelation 16:10-11
 - (a) There will be a crescendo of hurt that will culminate into a crescendo of hate, as they hate God.
 - (2) The darkness referred to in this passage does not speak necessarily of physical darkness but of moral and spiritual darkness that will engulf the world.
- vi) Controlling spirits
 - (1) Revelation 16:12-16
 - (a) The dragon, the beast and the false prophet are the unholy trinity who will be working here on Earth during The Great Tribulation.
 - (b) These unclean spirits are demons.
 - (i) There is one devil and many demons working “miracles;” demon powers have miracle power.
 - (2) These demon spirits that are already working in the world are drawing the nations to the final decisive battle of mankind: The Battle of Armageddon.
 - (a) Spirits of demons are working in the hearts and minds of the world’s national leaders.
- vii) Cataclysmic shaking
 - (1) Revelation 16:17-21
 - (a) “It is finished.”
 - (i) Jesus spoke these words from the cross when redemption was completed.
 - (ii) Now, retribution will be completed.

- (2) The greatest of all earthquakes will take place.
 - (a) Revelation 16:18-19
 - (i) There can be no ultimate victory apart from the wrath of God and the righteous judgment of God.
 - (ii) Sin must be dealt with.
 - (b) Revelation 16:20-21
 - (i) A talent was about all the weight that a man could carry.
 - (ii) Hail stones weighing hundreds of pounds will fall upon men during this period of time.

- 5) CONCLUSION
 - a) As Christians, we have victory.
 - i) Our victory comes from three things:
 - (1) The Word of God.
 - (2) The redeeming works of God.
 - (3) The ensuing wrath of God.
 - b) There are three cups we need to be mindful of:
 - i) Revelation 16 speaks of people drinking from the cup of God's wrath.
 - ii) In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus drank the bitter cup of the sin of mankind that He took upon Himself and carried to the cross.
 - iii) The cup of salvation.
 - (1) Psalm 116:13
 - (2) Because Jesus drank the bitter cup, we can drink this cup of salvation.
 - c) If you do not drink the cup of salvation, then you will drink the cup of God's wrath.
 - i) God never overlooks sin.
 - ii) Your sin will either be pardoned in Christ, or it will be punished in Hell.
 - d) You can have victory today by saying "Yes" to the Lord Jesus Christ and trusting in Him.
 - e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16