

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	The Decisions of the Living and the Destiny of the Dead
SERMON REFERENCE:	Revelation 14
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#2353

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Revelation 14 is a chapter of great contrast.
 - i) It tells about the Lamb and about the beast.
 - ii) It tells about Earth and about Heaven.
 - iii) It tells about the harvest of the doomed and the harvest of the saved.
- b) Today is decision time.
 - i) God created you a living soul.
 - ii) Your soul will be in existence somewhere when the sun, moon and stars have grown cold.
 - iii) There was a time when you were not; there will never be a time when you will not be.
 - iv) Where will you spend eternity?
 - v) It is decision that determines destiny.
- c) We will either say “yes” to Jesus or “no” to Jesus.
 - i) Matthew 12:30
 - ii) If a person decides not to decide, that is a decision.
- d) We are free to choose. We’re not free not to choose, and we’re not free to choose the consequences of our choices.
- e) Revelation 14:13
 - i) When we die, we will either die in the Lord or outside of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) If you were to die today, where would you be?
 - (2) When you get to where you are headed, where will you be?
 - (a) There is the destiny of the dead.

2) THE CHARACTER OF THOSE LED BY THE LAMB (Revelation 14:1-5)

- a) We see in this chapter the 144,000 of all the tribes of Israel.
 - i) They follow the Lamb.
 - ii) They have been set aside to serve.
 - (1) Revelation 7:15
 - iii) These are tribulation saints, and these events take place after the rapture.
 - iv) In many ways, they also picture those of us today who believe in the Lamb of God.
- b) They are secure in their protection.
 - i) Revelation 14:1
 - (1) They have been saved, and they have been sealed.
 - ii) A seal symbolizes protection, possession and preservation.
 - iii) Ephesians 1:13
 - (1) This passage speaks of those of us living in this age.
 - (2) All saints of God have been saved and sealed.
 - iv) Out of the 144,000, not one of them is lost.
 - (1) Nowhere in the Bible do we find where someone who is truly saved ever loses his or her salvation.
 - (2) We are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

- (a) No man can break the King's seal.
 - (i) Some believe that the devil can take us out of God's hands.
 - 1. If this were true, then those who do go to Heaven would be doing so by the goodness of the devil.
 - 2. The devil cannot take us out of God's hands.
- c) They are singular in their praise.
 - i) Revelation 14:2-3
 - (1) The four beasts in this Scripture are the creatures that represent the attributes of God.
 - (2) The Elders represent the saved of all the ages.
 - ii) These 144,000 saved Jews have a new song that they will sing in the presence of the Lamb.
 - (1) The word used for "new" in Revelation 14:3 means "new in character."
 - (2) They have a special song because of their own special experience that nobody else can sing.
 - (a) Each of us has our own song that no one else can sing.
 - (i) 1 Corinthians 2:11
 - iii) Psalm 150:6
- d) They are separated in their purity.
 - i) Revelation 14:4
 - (1) "Not defiled" in this Scripture is not referring to marriage.
 - (2) This is symbolism used to express that they are spiritually undefiled.
 - (a) Satan's false church is called a harlot.
 - (b) Later on in the book of the Revelation, we see a scarlet woman who represents false religion.
 - (c) Revelation 14:8
 - (i) This passage represents spiritual fornication.
 - ii) They are true to the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) They have not defiled themselves.
 - (2) James 4:4
 - (a) Symbolic language is used in this passage referring to spiritual adulterers.
 - (3) 2 Corinthians 11:2
 - iii) We should each ask ourselves if we are spiritually pure.
 - (1) Do you have an undefiled love for the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - (2) Would you disgrace the Lord Jesus?
- e) They are steadfast in their purpose.
 - i) Revelation 14:4
 - ii) They are marked by loyalty to the Lamb.
 - (1) No rival, no refusal, no restraint.
 - iii) Do you have loyalty to the Lamb? Are you steadfast in your purpose?
- f) They are symbolic in their prophecy.
 - i) Revelation 14:4

- ii) In Israel, there was a feast during harvest time called the Feast of the First Fruits.
 - (1) They would take the first ripening grain to the temple.
 - (2) The first fruits typify the harvest that is to come.
 - iii) These are 144,000 Apostle Pauls who will preach the Gospel around the world.
 - (1) Revelation 7:9
 - (a) Millions will come to Christ during The Great Tribulation.
 - (i) For those currently living who think they can wait to see if the rapture takes place in their lifetimes and then get saved, they will instead believe the lies of the antichrist.
 - (ii) There is no Biblical evidence of anyone who willingly and knowingly refused Jesus Christ then being saved in the Great Tribulation.
 - (2) These who are protected, sealed, who follow the Lamb wherever He leads, and who are spiritually pure will have a testimony for the Lord Jesus.
 - g) They are sincere in their profession.
 - i) Revelation 14:5
 - (1) Guile is hypocrisy.
 - ii) They know the truth, believe the truth, speak the truth and live the truth.
 - iii) Matthew 12:37
 - (1) Our words will either condemn us or justify us.
- 3) THE CORRUPTION OF THOSE BOSSED BY THE BEAST (Revelation 14:6-8)
- a) The beast (the antichrist) is the antithesis of the Lamb.
 - i) When the church is raptured and taken out, the beast will appear on the scene to boss the world.
 - b) This passage in Revelation depicts an angel who flies in the midst of Heaven preaching the Gospel.
 - i) In the age we're currently living in, angels do not preach the Gospel.
 - (1) In this dispensation, the Gospel is preached by us.
 - ii) In the Great Tribulation, God in His mercy gives one final call to the Gentile.
 - iii) The Gospel preached by this angel is not a different Gospel.
 - (1) Galatians 1:6-9
 - (2) There is only one Gospel, and it is the saving Gospel of grace.
 - (a) Ephesians 2:8-9
 - c) Revelation 14:8
 - i) In this passage, another angel begins to speak.
 - ii) This is the first time in the book of the Revelation that Babylon is mentioned.
 - iii) Babylon is the cradle and the grave of all idolatry and false worship.
 - (1) Genesis 10-11

- (a) Nimrod built a city called Babel.
 - (i) The name “Nimrod” means “rebel.”
 - (b) Nimrod wanted to build a city-state with a tower whose top would reach into Heaven.
 - (c) He also wanted to create a one-world government and a one-world religion.
 - (2) Babylon is the quintessential symbol of evil and sin.
 - (a) This is the kingdom over which the beast will rule.
 - d) The first century Christians referred to Rome as Babylon.
 - i) 1 Peter 5:13
 - (1) It may be that the antichrist will rule from Rome.
 - e) Babylon is destined for destruction and is going to fall.
 - i) It is the capitol city of the antichrist.
 - f) It is Babylon that will corrupt the whole world and will usher in a one-world government and a one-world religion.
- 4) THE CONSEQUENCES OF THOSE DESTINED BY DECISION (Revelation 14:9-12)
- a) This passage speaks of those who worship the beast and take his mark.
 - b) The antichrist will have a minister of propaganda who will cause everyone to receive a mark in his right hand or in his forehead.
 - i) This minister of propaganda (the false prophet) will be a controller of commerce.
 - ii) No one will be able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast.
 - iii) But those who do take the mark of the beast will commit the unpardonable sin by doing so.
 - (1) Those who receive the mark will be eternally lost; those who do not receive the mark will be persecuted by the beast and put to death.
 - (2) Those living during the Great Tribulation will either defy the beast or deify the beast.
 - c) The destiny of those branded by the beast:
 - i) Those who receive the mark of the beast will spend an eternity in Hell.
 - ii) Revelation 14:10
 - (1) Whether or not this passage is symbolic, it is important to remember that symbolism is always weaker than the reality.
 - iii) Revelation 14:11
 - (1) There is no hope once one is in Hell.
 - (2) It is forever.
 - (3) Proverbs 11:7
 - iv) The Lord Jesus had more to say about Hell than anyone else in the Bible.
 - v) The Lord Jesus had more to say about Hell than Heaven.
 - vi) Mark 9:43
 - (1) It would be better to be a crippled saint than a healthy sinner on the way to Hell.
 - d) The destiny of those sealed by the Spirit:

- i) Revelation 14:13
 - (1) Even though the beast may put to death these tribulation saints, he will not be able to eternally harm them.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 5:8
 - (b) Acts 7:56
 - (i) The Lord Jesus is normally seated in Heaven, but He stood to welcome Stephen home.
- ii) Those who die in the Lord are rejoicing.
 - (1) Revelation 14:13 says, “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.”
 - (a) The Greek word for “blessing” means “rejoicing.”
 - (2) Heaven is all that the loving heart of God would desire, the omniscient mind of God can conceive and all the omnipotent hand of God can perform.
- iii) Those who die in the Lord are resting from their labors.
 - (1) This does not mean that we will have nothing to do in Heaven.
 - (a) We will rule kingdoms and universes.
 - (b) Revelation 22:3
 - (2) There will be no toil in Heaven.
- iv) Those who die in the Lord are rewarded.
 - (1) We can never work our way to Heaven.
 - (2) Works will never take us to Heaven; our works will follow us to Heaven.
 - (a) Revelation 14:13
 - (3) Matthew 10:42

5) CONCLUSION

- a) There is a God to serve, a Hell to shun, a Heaven to gain and an eternity to live.
- b) The decision of Jesus Christ is before you today.
- c) Today, you can receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
 - i) You cannot remain neutral about the Lord Jesus.
 - ii) Matthew 12:30
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) 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