Revelation Teaches us How to Live April 3, 2022

*Revelation 14:1-13 Series: Understanding the Book of Revelation*

It is much safer, from Satan's point of view, to vaccinate a person with a mild case of Christianity so as to protect him from the real disease. – Howard Hendricks

Intro: When you “care more about what other people say”

1. People who live with the hope of heaven
2. The joy of eternal belonging

v. 1 *on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000*

v. 1 *144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads*

Revelation 22:4 *They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*

1. The joy of eternal delight

v. 2 *I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder …*

v. 2 *The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps …*

v. 3 *they were singing a new song before the throne*

v. 3 *No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.*

* Have you ever experienced a time when the sense that you belonged (to a group of people) was deeply meaningful to you?
* What’s so precious about God making it clear that we belong to Him?
* What does this vision of people singing as loud as thunder and as sweet as a harp teach you about heaven?
1. People who live in denial of hell
2. There’s judgment on the other side of the gospel’s invitation

v. 6 *I saw another angel … with an eternal gospel to proclaim*

v. 7 *Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come …*

v. 7 *worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water*

1. All that seduces the world will be brought down

v. 8 *Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.*

Matthew 6:24 *No one can serve two masters … You cannot serve God and money.*

1. God’s wrath will be unceasing and eternal

v. 10 *he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger*

Psalm 75:8 *For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.*

v. 10 *he will be tormented with fire and sulfur*

Genesis 19:24 *the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire*

v. 11 *the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever*

Revelation 20:10 *they will be tormented day and night forever and ever*

v. 11 *they have no rest, day or night*

* What are some of the ways that people live as if hell isn’t real?
* Today we talk about people who “drank the Kool-Aid.” What does it mean to drink Babylon’s wine?
* How is the depiction of hell here different than how our world typically imagines it?
1. People who will be surprised where they end up
2. Heaven isn’t for those who never belonged

v. 1 *144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads*

v. 3 *the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth*

1. Heaven isn’t for those who turn back

v. 12 *a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus*

v. 13 *Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.*

v. 13 *“Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors …”* (v. 11 *“they have no rest, day or night”)*

1. Heaven isn’t for those who won’t follow

v. 4 *It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins.*

2 Corinthians 11:2 *I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.*

v. 4 *It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes.*

v. 5 *in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless*

Isaiah 53:9 *he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth*

v. 13 *their deeds follow them*

* It’s strange to hope that you’ll be part of God’s people in heaven if you’re not part of God’s people on earth. What are some ways that you can “belong” to God’s people?
* Is this chapter saying you have to be perfect to get into heaven?
* What verse or truth from this chapter do you want to reflect on this week?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Revelation 15:1-16:21

Notes