

“THE PANORAMIC VIEW OF REVELATION”

Revelation 14: 12

Here the patience of the saints: Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus (v. 12).

REVIEW/INTRODUCTION

Last week we talked about the proclamations of the angels, that John witness and the coming doom and fall of Babylon, which represents all nations and people that were seduced or forced into taking the mark of the beast and drinking the wine of her fornication. As studied verses 6 – 11, learned that God had pronounced a sentence of damnation on this world system and all that would refuse to accept and believe the Gospel message.

Now those verses, reminded us about a place called Hell, where the lost will suffer in the flames of God’s wrath for eternity. Even the Prophet Isaiah, had something to say about the eternal future that awaits every person who live and dies outside of a relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. **“And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh” (Isaiah 66: 24).**

What a contrast there is when it comes to verse **12**. We leave the wrath and judgment of verses **6 - 11** and we are exposed to the sweet fragrance of God’s grace in action. Having declared His judgment against the wicked, God now demonstrates His grace toward the righteous. Having shown us the wicked, God now casts the spotlight on His faithful remnant. He says, “You have seen the wicked ones, now take a look at my children.”

So, verses **12 – 13**, remind us that God will take care of the faithful and show us what will happen to the saints of God, who persevere until the end, when they leave this world. We have seen the hellish side of death is going to be like; now let’s examine the heavenly side of death. What awaits the sinner is ghoulish; but what awaits the saint is glorious. Now let’s look at the facts in these two verses as we consider the doctrine of perseverance, which assures all true believers in Christ that they will never lose their faith. Why, because the regenerate will continually endure, right to the end, in obedience to the truth, no matter what may come against them (**Reader, Romans 8: 38 – 39; Reader, 2 Corinthians. 4: 8 – 10; Reader, Hebrews 10: 35 – 39**). John said, to the Church of Smyrna, **“He that hath an ear, let him**

hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that over cometh shall not be hurt of the second death” (Revelation 2: 11).

#1 – SO, HERE IS THE PATIENCE OF THE SAINTS (V. 12). The word “*patience*” literally means “*steadfast endurance*”. It is the picture of a person who cannot be swayed from his simple faith in and of their devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ.

In spite, of the horrors of the Tribulation Period and the threats of the Antichrist, these believers have remained faithful to their Lord. They refused to bow to this world. They refused to give their worship to the Devil. They have endured every attack and every affliction with the confident knowledge that their God was executing an eternal plan. They were faithful even unto the death, knowing that, in the end, their faith would be vindicated and Satan and his kingdom would be judged.

These people knew that they were part of the victorious people God, even while they suffered! That is a lesson that we would do well to learn in our day. This world and the devil are always trying to get us to compromise. There is a constant barrage designed to cause us to abandon God and the way of righteousness. The devil would love nothing better than for us to get our eyes off Jesus and His will for our lives and our church. He would love for us to lower our standards, and simply to relax our hold on our convictions and abandon the way of righteousness in these days.

After all, it would be easier! It would cause the church to be more accepted in the community. It would take some of the pressure off. The only problem is that it would offend God! It would cause Him to remove His power from our midst. It would cause Him to write “*Ichabod*” above our door post, like He has in countless other churches throughout the world. You see, “*Ichabod*” means that the “**Glory of the Lord has Departed**” (**Reader, 1 Samuel 3: 10 – 14; Reader, 1 Samuel 4: 17 – 22**). The worst thing that could ever happen to the Church of the living God, is for it to develop a spirit of tolerance.

The best course of action in this day and time, is the same course of action chosen by the saints in these verses. It is the course, that was articulated by the Apostle Paul in **1 Cor. 15:58**, “*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*” We are to stay the course for the glory of God. Now those close to you, might not appreciate your efforts to live a faithful life for the Lord; but God does! He sees every sacrifice for His name and He will reward His people in due time (**Reader, Matthew 10:41- 42; Reader, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15**).

#2 – HERE ARE THEY THAT KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, AND THE FAITH OF JESUS (v. 12). The proof of these people faithfulness demonstrated their faithfulness to the Lord in two ways. They kept His commandments and they kept the faith. When we do as He tells us in His Word, we prove that we love Him. Jesus said, **“If ye love me keep my commandments”** (John 14:15). Our obedience to the Lord is irrefutable evidence that we have experienced the new birth. **“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him”** (1 John 2: 3 – 5).

Yes, by keeping the faith, these people had refused to deny Jesus. They had maintained their faith in Him even when doing so was costly. Many in the Tribulation will go to their deaths rather than deny the Lord Jesus. How much easier would it be for them to deny Him with their lips, even as they embrace Him in their hearts? But, they are not hypocrites! They will not deny Him even though it will cost them everything. By refusing to worship the Antichrist, they will suffer greatly. They will not be able to buy or sell. They will be hunted and hounded and executed for their allegiance to Jesus. Still, they will remain faithful!

Those suffering saints set a sterling example for us living in our time. As we know, the trend in churches and among church people in our day is to become more like the world. That is the easy path to follow. It gains you favor with the world and it helps you grow in numbers. Today preachers are looking for numbers rather than for lost souls. **“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not”** (2 Peter 2: 3). They are more concern about being popular than doing what is beneficial for the integrity of the Gospel.

However, when you compromise the Word of God and water down the Gospel message, you forfeit the presence and power of God. You might have a full house, huge crowds and mountains of cash, but if there is no power and touch of God, those things amount to less than nothing ***“I’d Rather Have Jesus!”***

INCONCLUSION

From a worldly point of view these people gave up a lot for their faith in Jesus Christ. They suffered, they starved, and they endured hardships that we cannot even begin to imagine. Men watched their wives and children starve to death.

Mothers watched their children suffer. What did it profit them? What payoff was there in such suffering and pain? The 13th verse tells us about their future. If you are saved it tells about your **FUTURE** too. To be continued!

**PRESENTED BY BISHOP PAUL MOSS/PASTOR
ST. MATTHEWS FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.
6700 N. W. 2ND AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33127**