

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Revelation - The Triumph of God

June 26, 2019

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Lesson 8: The Last Word on Witness Revelation 10 – 11

To tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth—that is being a faithful witness, whether in court, a police investigation or at the scene of accident. Central to the vocation of being a disciple of Christ is the call to be a witness. Yet all too often this is viewed as a duty and a suffocating burden.

Group Discussion. Explore your own history of being a witness for Christ. When did this seem to come naturally? When was it forced?

8 Common Excuses Christians Give To Not Evangelize

1. **They may ask a question I can't answer** - Sometimes people will ask questions to distract you. Don't let those distractions keep you sharing the Gospel.
2. **I'm scared** - Scared of what? most of us do not live under the type of persecution to lose your life trying to share the Gospel.
3. **It is not my responsibility.** If it isn't your responsibility then whose is it? Jesus stated that everyone they were being sent (Acts 1:8) to be witnesses.
4. **I don't know how to witness.** - One of the simplest ways to witness is to tell other people how Christ saved you.
5. **I don't speak well.** Moses used that excuse too in Exodus 4:10. Yet God still used him. He'll use you too.
6. **I don't know how to start a conversation about the Lord.** Let the Spirit lead you just to ask a person what they believe about God.
7. **I am afraid my friends will remember the bad things I have done.** As far as your past once God forgives you, share how Jesus changed your life
8. **I don't have time** Yet you have time for TV, Facebook and hanging out with your friends on Friday night?

In these two chapters John explores the crucial ministry of God's witnesses who cannot but speak of what they have seen and heard. But God's witnesses are not mere armchair conversationalists. They witness in the heat of battle as they engage the principalities and powers. John does not expect all Christians to be martyrs but all are witnesses whether faithful or not.

Read Revelation 10—11

1. What are the actions of the mighty angel introduced in 10:1?
 - The interludes in the sequence of seals and trumpets contain John's deepest pastoral messages.
 - In the first interlude (chapter 7) John answered the question "who can stand?" (6:17).

- This time John seems to be answering the implied question “what shall we then do?”

Before the sounding of the 7th Trumpet the ushering in of the Kingdom of God on Earth , the Mighty Angel announces a call to witness to unbelievers to repent and trust Christ.

2. What is the significance of the mystery of God which will be revealed without further delay (10:6-7)?
 - **The Family of God** - In Christ God has purposed to include all peoples (Jews and Gentiles) into His Holy.
 - **The Kingdom Of God** - The mystery of God is the consummation of God’s plan in bringing His kingdom in Christ to fulfillment.
 - **The Salvation of God** - In its fullest sense, the “mystery of God” is God’s plan of salvation through Jesus.
 - **The Triumph of God** – Despite the best efforts of Satan and his demons, Jesus Christ will ultimately reign triumphant over all heaven and earth.

The Mystery of God: *A “mystery” in the New Testament is something that had at one time been hidden but is now revealed to God’s people (1 Cor 4:1; Eph 3:9; Col 2:2)*

3. The “little scroll” that John eats (10:8-11) probably refers to the gospel. When in your life has the gospel tasted like honey or turned your stomach sour?
 - It was sour to me when I realized how vile a sinner I was (am) in light of God’s holiness and righteous Judgement
 - It was so sweet to me the moment I received Jesus as my Saviour. O happy Day.
 - It was sweet seeing my brothers saved and baptized – welcomed into the family of God.
 - It is sour – when I think of all those who are lost – still rejecting this great salvation in pride and unbelief.
4. In 11:1-14 John combines two pictures: the measuring of the temple and the saga of the two witnesses. What indicates that he is really describing the witness of God’s people as a whole?
 - The church is described as God’s sanctuary (1 Cor 3:16; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21).
 - John uses the measurements of the temple court and the holy city to show that there is limit to which unbelievers can trample God’s holy people.
 - Unbelievers and the enemies of the Gospel will come against the church and her efforts share the Good News.
 - The spreading of the Gospel by the Church is even more important as the 2nd coming of Christ draws near. What happens to the two witnesses empowered by God (11:3-14)?

5. Why do you think the witnesses caused such turmoil?

- The two witnesses in Revelation will have miraculous powers to accompany them and no one will be able to stop them (v.5)
- These witnesses cannot be harmed until their mission is accomplished (11:7) even though the world system was aligned against them.
- The witnesses preached with such fervor and conviction that it moved the unbelieving world to murder leaving their bodies in the street.
- Three and a half days later, however, God's two witnesses will be resurrected and, in full view of their enemies, ascend to heaven (vv. 11–12). It seems the world can gloat over the demise of witnesses and, in some places, the demise of the witnessing community (11:7-13).

Note: The identity of the two witnesses has been a matter of considerable speculation, Moses and Elijah being the most frequently cited.

6. How can these witnesses know that they have fulfilled their life-purpose and that their witness will not be result-less?

- They know that are speaking the Word of God.
- They know they are under the Power of God.
- They Know they are doing the Will/Work of God.

“The church is a powerful church only when it is a penitent church. A comfortable, easy-minded church has no power to stir the world either to salvation or to opposition” (Leon Morris)

7. What happens when the seventh trumpet is blown (11:15-19)?

- There are the loud voices (11:15) of a heavenly chorus.
- The heavenly voices and the elders join to proclaim that Christ has triumphed and will reign forever.
- This moment, signified by an open heaven, the ark of the covenant (2 Chron 35:3; Heb 10:19) and cosmic.

John stops short of declaring final victory. The kingdom can only by spread of the gospel and through a violent battle with the powers of evil.

8. What have you learned about our calling to be God's witnesses?

- God has left us on the Earth to be His witness – every can and should be a witness.
- Jesus has promised to give us His power to witness in any situation.
- We need to be faithful witnesses – His Word, His Will & His way.
- Faithful witnesses will sometimes face opposition and even persecution.
- We can trust God with the results of our witnessing efforts – His word will have the final say.
- We won't leave this present age until our work is done.
- Faithful witnesses will always be victorious in the end.

Take time for silent or verbal repentance of your sins.

Keys For Living



The Gospel has 2 distinct effects on people – either they will repent and receive it, or they will resist and reject it. As we witness and face rejection, we need remember people are rejecting God, not us.



No matter how evil the world is, or how evil it will get, the Lord will always have at least one faithful witness that will be true His Word and Message.



As Christ's Ambassador's we are called be witnesses of the Gospel, regardless of the opposition, leaving the results or success totally to Him.