

# SRMBC Family Bible Study

## Revelation - The Triumph of God

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### Lesson 10: Doing Mission in Hard Times Revelation 14 – 15

Sometimes we put missionaries on a pedestal, admiring them for their commitment but distancing ourselves from their work. If we consider any involvement in mission ourselves, we may see it as a leisure-time occupation, something one elects to do if one has opportunity, inclination and time.

**Group Discussion.** What thoughts and images come to mind with the words “mission” and “missionary”? Where do these perspectives come from?



In this scene, set during the war in Vietnam, Forrest's platoon receives enemy fire. He runs away as fast as he can, just as Jenny told him.

When he arrives safe on the water's edge, he realizes his best friend Bubba isn't there. He runs back into the jungle to find Bubba, saving others along the way.

#### Questions:

- **Forrest's 1<sup>st</sup> instinct in the battle was self – preservation. What changed? Why?**

*Forrest' mindset was changed from saving himself, to looking out for his buddy Bubba to be saved – delivered from danger. his love for his friend, overruled his natural desire to save himself.*

- **Although Forrest's goal was to find Bubba – He was able to help others along the way. How does this relate our mission for Christ?**

*Jesus commands us in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19 20) to Go! which literally means “As you are going...” This means that as we are to compel everyone (who is lost and hurting) we come across to be saved by trusting in Jesus.*

- **Forrest kept going even though “Something jumped up and bit him” What dangers do we face on the mission field?**

*We will face rejection, persecution, along with attacks from the Devil – which can be very painful. Yet we can and must keep going for the mission of spreading the Gospel is a matter of life or death.*

- **How does Forrest's passion to find his wounded friend compare to God's passion for the Lost? How should we, as His church respond?**

*God is passionate to find the lost is so great that He sent His only begotten Son to the die on the Cross in our place to save us (John 3:16). His is not satisfied until all the lost that will repent and trust Jesus (Luke 15:4; II Peter 3:9)*

John shows us that mission starts in God's heaven and is laced with worship. For mission and worship are not two competing activities but simply two facets of giving glory to God among the nations—and both are part of the life of every believer. In this study, we will see how those who lay down their lives for Jesus are engaged in the most fruitful activity on earth. John is like an expert tour guide at an art gallery, first having us look at the big picture at a distance (the seven seals, trumpets and bowls) and then up close.

## Read Revelation 14 - 15.

1. What differences do you notice between the 144,000 who are with the Lamb (14:1-5) and Babylon, the beast and those who worship it (14:6-11)?

### The Lamb and The 144000

- The Father's name on their Foreheads
- The voice of God over them
- The song of the Lord and joy
- Holiness and separation from the world

### Babylon, The Beast And Worshipers

- The mark of the beast on their forehands
- A voice of Woe and judgment
- The atmosphere of Smoke Fire and Brimstone
- The fall off the World system

2. Apparently the 144,000 (14:1-5) are the church "redeemed from the earth" (14:3). How do you respond to this vision as you may face challenges to your faith?

- **Hope:** I have hope in the one that I belong to and has set His Name upon me can never and will never let me go – rejoicing over us in signing.
- **Joy:** O the joy in my heart that causes me to sing when I think about the goodness of the Lord in the past present and into the future.
- **Love:** My love for the Lord O that he would redeem/save from sin and from death hell and the Grave.
- **Faith/Determination:** My heart stirred up to obey and not be defiled with the things of this world – to be holy and obedient.

**Note:** *The fulfillment of the 144,000 sealed (7:1-8) is that they are now saved. This number of completeness "stands for the whole church of Jesus Christ" not a spiritual elite such as the martyr (Morris, Revelation of St. John, p. 75)*

3. What dimensions of God's mission are expressed by each of the three angels (14:6-13)?

- **The 1<sup>st</sup> Angel:** A Call to faith and salvation in the Lord God the Creator of all.
- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Angel:** A Call of warning to repent turn away from Babylon – the sinful world and its system.
- **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Angel:** A Call of judgement - Announcing God's righteous judgement and wrath against those who rebel in stubborn unbelief – siding with Satan.

*So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" (II Cor 5:20, NLT)*

4. What does this reveal about God's interest in those who are not yet Christians in the end times?
  - **God's Patience:** He gives people a wide berth, every opportunity to turn from sin and avoid the coming wrath of judgement.
  - **God's Purpose:** His purpose in bring His Judgement and wrath is not just punitive but to spur those He loves to repentance
  - **God's Passion:** He is so loving and so intent on saving even the most difficult of us that He will use all means to bring the unbelieving to faith in Christ
5. Describe the harvest of the earth (14:14-20 and 15:1, 7).

*"It must be remembered that evil has its harvest as well as good. There is a harvest of misery and woe.*

#### **The Wheat Harvest**

- Harvested by the Lord Jesus Christ (Crowns) Son of Man)
- Faithful believers/Followers of the Lord
- Made up of the Church and Israel

#### **The Grape Harvest**

- Harvested by an angel of the Lord
- The Unbelieving and fearful
- Facing the Wrath of God (the Winepress).

This vivid picture of judgment was the inspiration for **The Battle Hymn of the Republic.**

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,  
He is trampling out the vineyard where the grapes of wrath are stored,  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword, His truth is marching on!

6. Why must God's mission include both blessing and wrath (15:1)?
  - The mission of wrath and blessings is God's last appeal to a world turned away in revolt.
  - God's saving judgment, results in either deliverance and condemnation, depending on whether the gospel is met with repentance or rebellion.
  - God's wrath is not his vindictive anger but an expression of His perfect justice.
  - God allows people to experience the results of their own obstinate choices.
7. John takes us into heaven once again (15:1-8). Why do the saints sing? In what way does their song embody the ultimate goal of God's saving mission?

#### **Why They Sing:**

- The Wrath of God is about to be completed.
- People will have another change for repentance and Salvation.
- They sing in awe of a Great God as they see His will and justice come to pass.

#### **What The Song Embodies:**

- God's Purpose is to save people from the penalty, power and presence of sin.
- God has set a time for Judgement – but sends ample warning for all to get right
- All of these works (wrath and mercy) this is for the praise and the Glory of God.

8. The Spirit says of those who die in the Lord: “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them” (14:13). What confidence can we have that the Christian life on earth will not be resultless?

- We can have confidence in the Purposes of God in the Gospel of Christ.
- We can have confidence in Promises of God in the Scriptures
- We can have confidence in the Prophecies of God. His Word always comes to fruition.
- We can have confidence in the Person of God. His character – He cannot lie or fail.
- We can trust in the Power and Plan of God. The Gospel and Word will have a far-reaching effect – even after when our work is done.

*Pray for those who are struggling against Satan.*

### *Keys For Living*



God has given every member of the Body of the Christ the mission of spreading the Gospel to every nation. There is great reward that awaits those who faithfully give their lives to the Work of the Lord.



God’s gracious blessing for the faithful and His wrath against sinful unbelievers are completely consistent with His Holy and Loving Character.



The Father’s Perfect Love and His Righteous Wrath are seen most vividly at the Cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus, as expression of God’s love for us, took God’s wrath against sin upon Himself for our salvation.