

Text: Revelation 7:2-15

Theme: Saints Triumphant

## Outline

1. Saints undergo tribulation doing the Mission of Christ
2. Saints are Triumphant in and through Jesus Christ!

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the First reading, the revelation to Saint John the seventh chapter verses two through fifteen.

Boys and girls, I pray that you are doing well today. Today is All Saints Day. Today we remember and give thanks to God that He continues to protect and defend His people even when death takes them from our physical sight. Do you know what a saint is? A saint is a person redeemed by God. You and I are saints. Sometimes bad things happen to saints because people do not want to hear about Jesus and His great love for them. How does God protect us when bad things happen to us? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

### **1. Saints undergo tribulation doing the Mission of Christ**

Saint John, in the midst of terrible destruction of the earth and all of its inhabitants, suddenly sees a vision which gives him immense comfort. A two-fold vision of the one hundred forty-four thousand sealed (144,000) and the great multitude that no one could number gathered around the throne and the Lamb, singing praises and worshipping. Who are these two groups?

The 144,000 represent God's people on earth in perfect order and thus ready to march. This is interpreted to be the church militant, poised and ready to carry out the marching orders—the mission—that her Lord has given to

her.<sup>1</sup> The redeemed of God, ready to go forth to proclaim the wonderful news of Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of the world, the redemption of humanity, and restoration of the entirety of creation. They do so know that it is not an easy task. You know it as well. It is not easy to spread the wonderful news of what Jesus has done for you to friends and family, much less strangers. People are dismissive at best. Arrogant and prideful, they do not think that they need to hear it. Sure, that other guy does, but me? Nah! At their worst, they are outright hostile to the point of death. They think 'If I shut that person up, silence them for good, then I will be safe and secure. They will not bother me anymore.' So throughout history, the church has faced tribulation. The death of the messengers of God. The prophets, apostles, all faced death.

The same is still true for Christians today. We face our sinful natures that says, "NO! I do not want to share the faith with that person. I know how they really act. They are not really into the faith." We look at the cost and go, "Is it worth it? Is it a good investment?" Letting finances get in the way of the kingdom. We face the wrath of Satan and all his evil horde as he tempts us to not tell other people, to follow our sinful passions and the ways of the world rather than the ways of God. We face threats and destruction from family and friends as they seek to silence the pure proclamation of the Word of the salvation of their soul in favor of worldly salve for their itching ears. Truly, we face many tribulations while doing the mission that Christ our Lord has given to us.

## **2. Saints are Triumphant in and through Jesus Christ!**

Yet, in the midst of our tribulations, we have comfort. "When John sees the sealing of the 144,000. He is comforted and encouraged by this sealing, for it means that no matter how much he and God's people on earth suffer as they fulfill the mission of their Lord, God will protect them in their faith. And when, in the second scene, he sees the church triumphant—all those who are coming out of the great tribulation and suffering—he is full of joy and enthusiasm. The church militant will suffer and die in the Lord's mission, but

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<sup>1</sup> Brighton, L. A. (1999). [Revelation](#) (p. 180). Concordia Pub. House.

she will not lose faith, for her God will defend her in that faith (see 2 Cor 1:10; 2 Tim 1:12; 4:18). And in the end the church militant will become the church triumphant. Not only is the church sealed and kept in her faith no matter what she suffers, she will soon be elevated and glorified just as the Lord Christ was. Thus John—and through him God’s people—are comforted and full of hope, for God will protect them on earth and soon take them to the glorious company of the saints in heaven. And he and his readers are now all the more encouraged and emboldened to be about the mission of Christ on earth, so long as God gives breath and life.”<sup>2</sup>

We are similarly comforted and encouraged as we continue to proclaim the great message of Jesus Christ here, and around the world. We proclaim Christ’s message, not because we are masochists and enjoy being in pain, but we do so because we are comforted by the One who we follow, our Lord Jesus Christ. He has died and He has risen. He has triumphed over death and the grave forever. They have no power any longer. He now is ruling and reigning with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. He keeps us safe and protected in the ark of His church no matter what hardships and trials we face upon this earth. He comforts us with that fact that God does keep His people in the faith, even when death parts them from this earth, that the same as our Lord was raised from the dead, so too will we.

As we await that yet more glorious day when the saints triumphant rise in bright array, let us continue to be about the work that our Lord has given to us, secure in our salvation because of His death and resurrection from the dead.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> Brighton, L. A. (1999). [\*Revelation\*](#) (pp. 180–181). Concordia Pub. House.