

Sermon Notes (Nov 5) – “Protected By God on the Way to His House”

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:16-20

A. From the Outside It Looks Like We are in Trouble Like Everyone Else

- Christians age and _____
- Christians are often not rich, but _____ .
- Tragedy and sadness comes to Christian _____ too.
- Sometimes, and towards the end times even more, Christians will be _____ .

B. Reading from Revelation 7:1-17 on All Saints Day

- Christians within 50 years of Jesus’ life on earth suffered from religious and _____ persecution. Prison, torture, and death for believing in Jesus.

- Was Jesus with them? St. John was last of apostles alive and Jesus gave John the visions which John recorded in Revelation.

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”...

...17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. 19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

- Jesus had John write the visions to seven churches (and even to the whole world 10:8-11).

For _____ and _____ .

- Revelation contains letters to the 7 church. (Chaps 2-3)

- Visions of

- Jesus ascension into heaven and enthronement at the Father’s right hand. (Chaps 4-5)
- Jesus alone is worthy to open the seven scrolls of future history and judgment for the world and church.
- Scrolls 1-6 opened in Chapter 6
- Scroll 7 opened in Chapter 8
- **Chapter 7 is two intervening visions of comfort for the Church, God’s people in the midst of enduring and suffering**

C. Protection on Earth to Get to Heaven

7:1 – The angels holding back destruction of the earth, seas and plants until God seals His people

7:2 – “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” (144,000 represents the complete number of God’s people)

- God hold back the final judgment upon evil until all His people are sealed as **HIS**.
- God’s people endure through all tribulations, even through the great last tribulation.
- 7:9-17 – God’s people serve Him with out evil, death, sufferings or sorrow.
- God is in control of all things that His people might get through this life to be with Him.

Dr. Louis Brighton – Concordia Commentary on Revelation: (Italics are from Dr. Brighton)

*God's Spirit, then, does use signs, visible marks or actions, in the sealing of God's people. Even as Jesus' ministry was accompanied by "signs" (σημεῖα, Acts 2:22), so also the ministry of the apostles was accompanied by "sign(s)" (σημεῖον, σημεῖα^{1f})—perceptible activities of the Spirit—which confirmed that their ministry of preaching the Gospel (Acts 2:14–35), baptizing (Acts 2:38, 41), and the breaking of the bread (Acts 2:42) was of God. The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are visible signs, that is, tangible elements (water, bread and wine) accompanied by words of God promising the forgiveness of sins (Mt 26:28; Acts 2:38). *Through these signs, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the Spirit works according to those words and promises of God, and the Spirit thereby seals God's people and confirms that they are indeed his people. Thus the Spirit of God, in his gracious activity through God's Word and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, seals God's people so that they know they belong to God and that he will protect them in their faith in the midst of all the tribulations they endure.**

One other place in Revelation mentions this sealing on the foreheads of God's people on earth. In Rev 9:1–6, in the second vision of events on earth, in the fifth scene (the fifth trumpet-angel) of the vision, John sees scorpion-like demons from the abyss (hell) afflicting the human race. But the command was given to these demons that they should afflict only those who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. *Whatever these demon-like afflictions were to be, God's own people were defended and kept safe from them, because they bore the seal of God on their foreheads.*²

^f Acts 2:19, 43; 4:16, 22, 30; 5:12; 6:8; Heb 2:4

²Louis A. Brighton, [Revelation](#), Concordia Commentary (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Pub. House, 1999), 186–187.