

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA
April 25, 2010 – Rev. Craig A. Patterson
“God Shall Wipe Every Tear From Their Eyes.”
(Text: Revelation 7:9-17)

Context: In the Apostle John’s letter to the seven congregations in Asia Minor, this is the first time that the Apostle sees the Church (the Una Sancta). The Church, in all of its glory and fullness is described here in such a different fashion. After existing as the Church Militant, that is, the struggling, battling church on earth, it is now viewed at the end of the battle. It is seen as a beautiful and victorious group of people who have arrived in more ways than one. O, to see and ponder this wonder! God has brought us home! All glory be to Him and the Lamb Who is on His throne!

I. As We Live Our Lives, Now, Christians Feel Anything But Victorious.

- A. Sin has impacted everyone around us.
 - 1. It often seems that evil is winning.
 - 2. To dare to be kind, humble, and caring is seen by many to be a weak way to live.
 - 3. Corruption and dishonesty of some sort seems to be the way that people must use to succeed.
 - 4. Pessimism and cynicism seem to be epidemic.
- B. Sin has impacted our spirits, hearts, and minds.
 - 1. We even struggle within ourselves.
 - a. ‘The good that we would do, we do not and the evil that we do not wish to do, we end up doing.’ (Romans 7:19).
- C. All of creation groans as it awaits the delivery of the sons of God from this fallen and darkened world.
 - 1. There is nothing in the created world in which we live that has not been impacted by the broken relationship between God and mankind.
 - 2. The creation itself “creaks” and doesn’t function just as the Creator intended. (Earthquakes, floods, storms, volcanoes, etc.)
- D. All of the above is a description of the “great tribulation.”

II. Jesus Has Won Full Salvation For All Who, By Grace, Believe.

- A. Jesus is the Lamb who, now, sits victoriously on His throne.
 - 1. He has, successfully, made the full payment for all mankind’s sins.
 - 2. The Father has accepted Christ’s sacrifice.
- B. The multitude consists of people out of every nation, tribe, people, and tongue.
- C. They are the fruit of the Gospel ministry from the very moment that mankind fell into sin (actually, even from before the world was made (Ephesians 1:4).
 - 1. They have cleansed their robes in the blood of the Lamb (Jesus).
 - 2. They enjoy full forgiveness of sins, peace, and love.
 - 3. They enjoy the water of life given to them by Jesus.
 - 4. All their needs are taken care of as they glory in the presence of the One who has saved them, serving and glorifying Him.