



Sunday, March 14, 2021

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Intro to Revelation 7:9-17

The phrase, “too heavenly minded to be of any earthly good,” can be a dangerous one for Christians. On the one hand, it could be a helpful caution to not let our theology be so abstract that we fail to love God and neighbor. But on the other hand, it can create a mindset that is so fixated on this world that we don’t have any context for doing earthly good to begin with.

In many ways, I think the more helpful approach is to be more heavenly minded in the truest sense. We should think often of heaven and what the Bible teaches about heaven, so that we will have a better understanding of the role we should play in this world.

For instance, when it comes to material possessions, the reality of heaven allows us to enjoy them for what they are but to hold on to them very loosely and to recognize that they spoil and fade. Instead, we are freed by a heavenly mindset to be even more generous and compassionate here on earth. This applies to so many different areas of life as well.

Context

Revelation 7 is the answer to the question posed by those under the wrath of God in chapter 6. At the end of chapter 6, the people of earth who have resisted God’s good authority over them are now facing the just punishment for their rebellion. In that scene, it is so terrifying that they ask the pointed question: who can stand? In chapter 7, the Lord gives John a vision that enables him to effectively answer that question. In fact, it will not be a small number who will be able to stand on the day of God’s wrath, it will be a multitude too great to number. This is only possible because they have washed in the blood of the Lamb, submitting to His leadership and authority in their lives and trusting His once-for-all sacrifice for their sins.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Revelation 7:9-17

“A Great Multitude”

- I. Who are they?
 - a. Too many to number (v. 9)

 - b. From every nation (v. 9)

- II. Where are they?
 - a. Standing before the throne (v. 9)

 - b. Sheltered under His presence (v. 15)

- III. How did they get there?
 - a. Through a great tribulation (v. 14)

 - b. By washing in the blood of the Lamb (v. 14)

