

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 28th February 2021
Sermon Title: Our Identity in Christ: Where we are headed
Bible Passage: Revelation 7: 9-17, Philippians 1:3-11

Recapping the Preach

Stu recapped the previous weeks by reminding us that when we came to faith a radical and fundamental change has taken place in our lives and all of this is of God. He highlighted the three responses on our part: we must believe what God has done, we must think differently (not believing the lies of satan but believing God's Word), we must live in light of what God has done. These three points were then applied to the picture in Revelation 7 and the passage from Philippians 1. Take time to read the passage and perhaps look at a few different translations.

- What stood out to from the passages?
- What would you highlight as the main points of these passages?

Stu described the passage in Revelation and encouraged us to see ourselves standing with the great multitude in white robes. He made the point that knowing our destination helps us to go in the right direction. We need to believe that God is taking us here and will finish what He started in us. Step into the picture in Revelation 7 and look around:

- Describe what you see happening in this picture?
- What are the main themes in this picture?
- What are the saints celebrating?
- Can you see yourself standing there among the saints?
- Philippians 1:6 should give us a real confidence that God will see us through. What other Scriptures could we draw on to give us assurance and hope?

Stu then reminded us to think differently. If we struggle to see ourselves in Revelation 7, then we need to take the enemies lies captive and stand on God's truth. This is important because the details of our life only make sense when viewed from eternity.

- One author has written that, 'Revelation is in the Bible to help us understand our final destination, and thereby make sense off our lives here and now' Do you agree with this and why?
- When you think about Revelation 7:9-17, in what ways does the picture help you in times of suffering, when battling sin or in encouraging us in mission?
- If a group of the saints in Revelation 7 could speak to us now during this pandemic, what do you think they would say?

Stu closed by pointing out that Revelation 7:9-17 should inform the way we live now and the choices we make. Paul's prayer in Philippians 1:9-11 highlights the things that should be a priority for us as we live with eternity in view.

- 'You and I will only be able to understand what is valuable when we examine things from the perspective of eternity. The eyes of eternity alone can tell us wayer is worth living and dying for'. Would you agree with this statement?
- What does Paul pray for the Philippians? How does this prayer inform our priorities in life?
- How can we grow to be 'able to discern what is best'?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray for one another that we would live out our new identity in Christ.
- Pray for one another that we will live in light of our eternal destination.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>