

**ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
*A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION**

—Elder David White

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 139:7-17 NIV**

- 7 Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.  
9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
10 even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.  
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,"  
12 even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.  
13 For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.  
15 My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place.  
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,  
16 your eyes saw my unformed body.  
All the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.  
17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

**WORSHIP THROUGH SONG**

*Lyric sheets of today's music can be obtained from the ushers upon request*

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART I**

—SCOTTY SMITH

**UNVEILED HOPE**

**The Power of Hope: Thriving, not Just Surviving in the Conflict**  
**Revelation 14:1-20**

Chapters 12 and 13 have given us insight into the intense and ugly conflict that has gone on between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent throughout the history of redemption. We have been introduced to the devil's main allies who together, with him, form an unholy trinity. This picture has given us a most helpful understanding of the background to the earthly conflict that will continue **and intensify** until the day King Jesus returns to fully establish His Kingdom. Lest this section of Revelation leave us thinking too much about our enemy and his ways, John is next given a vision of the people of God glorified and the great and final victory won by our God over all powers!

**I. THE PEOPLE OF THE LAMB**

**Revelation 14:1-5** *1 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. 3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. 4 These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. 5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.*

**A. The Lamb is standing on Mt. Zion. Jesus is victor!** He stands not on Mt. Sinai, the place of law, but on Mt. Zion, the place of redemption! He is the victor over the dragon, the sea beast and the earth beast!

**B. The people of the Lamb are marked not by the beast but by the Father!** Signed, sealed and delivered! Fix in your heart this vision of our security in Christ. This 144,000 represents the totality of the people of God. John is reminding all of us that the central questions in life are not "Will I be a disciple?", or "Will I be influenced by the values of a kingdom?", or "Will I wear a pair of glasses through which I will look out at the world and try to make sense of what is going on and my place in it?"... but, "Whose disciple am I?"... "Of all the kingdoms competing for my allegiance, whose kingdom shall have my allegiance?"... "Whose set of glasses shall I wear?"

**C. They worship with passion, joy and volume.** Again, God wants us to see that the principle business of heaven is the joyful worship of God; and, therefore the worship of the true God is our main calling in **this** life.

**D. God's people are known by positional and practical holiness.** Our justification in Christ will lead to transformation by the Holy Spirit!

**E. God's people are saved by God and for God.** Perhaps it will only be in heaven that we will fully understand and believe that "salvation is of the Lord". God bought us, He redeemed us, by the blood of the Lamb, plus nothing!!!

2. **The Second Angel:** (vs.8) The second angel speaks of "Babylon's fall". All godless systems and philosophies and ideologies of the "world" and the antichrist are doomed! God's truth and Kingdom will prevail! We are to live by faith, not fear!

3. **The Third Angel:** (vs.9-13) The third angel speaks of the eternal consequences of one's worship. To worship the beast is to be guaranteed eternal torment. To "die in the Lord" is to be guaranteed eternal rest. Because of Jesus, death has been utterly defeated and transformed! **Do you hear these angels speaking to your heart this morning?**

## GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 2

— SCOTT ROLEY

#### II. THE GOSPEL OF OUR GOD: The Three Angels

**Revelation 14:6-13** 6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth -- to every nation, tribe, language and people. 7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." 8 A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries." 9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, 10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." 12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. 13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

#### Consider the significance of these three angels:

1. **The First Angel:** (vs.6-7) The first angel speaks of God's grace and impending judgment. Until the last hour the gospel will be... must be... preached to all nations, including the dark continent of our own hearts. Those who despise God's lavish mercy will know His just judgment.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 3

— SCOTTY SMITH

#### III. THE REAPING OF OUR GOD

**Revelation 14:14-20** 14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. 17 Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." 19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. 20 They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

*Finally*, John is given a vision similar to that given to Daniel, (Dan.7:13f.). The "Son of Man," Jesus, coming in glory as the judge of all men. Read Matt.13:24-30, 36-40 for Jesus' own teaching on this topic. Notice the two aspects of this reaping. There is the reaping of the wheat, believers, and the reaping of the tares, the non-believers (Matt.9:37; Luke 10:2; John 4:26-29; Mark 4:26-29). What a tragic scene this is for those who reject the free grace of our God through Jesus. Rather than be taken to the bosom of God by His love they will be under His feet in His judgment. Such is the insanity of sin and such is the judgment of God upon all who do not love His Son. We will either cleave to the One who was trampled under God's judgment "outside the city " for us (Heb.13:2) or we ourselves will be trampled under His feet "outside the city", justly, because of our sin (Isa.63:1-6; Joel 3:13). Which will you have?

## SONGS OF RESPONSE

### BENEDICTION



#### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. What had the most impact on you today from our time in God's Word and worship? What was encouraging, convicting, and/or calling for more clarification?
2. Practically speaking, how can we develop a "more real" connection with John's encouraging visions? For instance, it's obvious that the vision of the Lamb standing on Mt Zion would have been phenomenally empowering for the first-century hard-pressed weary church. How does God bring our cold heart alive to the way things really are, from His perspective? Can any of you speak from experience?
3. What are the kingdoms competing for your allegiance... the obvious ones and the not so obvious ones? How does the gospel of God's grace free us unto a greater submission to the true King (Jesus) and the purposes of His everlasting kingdom? Let's get practical... what does that look like? Can any of you humbly share with your small group how you see the claims of grace moving you to make some lifestyle, relationship and/or missional decision?
4. This text is as sobering as it is gladdening! Final judgment and reaping is coming. Is there any doubt in your heart that you are a part of the Lamb's people? Has the gospel freed you from religion and irreligion? Are you trusting in Jesus' righteousness (plus nothing) for your acceptance with God? If not, why not today?
5. Close with a good season of prayer asking God to help us join the work of the three angels in proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel, through word and deed, until Jesus returns.

### **National Sanctity of Human Life Day, 2008**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

America was founded on the principle that we are all endowed by our Creator with the right to life and that every individual has dignity and worth. National Sanctity of Human Life Day helps foster a culture of life and reinforces our commitment to building a compassionate society that respects the value of every human being. Among the most basic duties of Government is to defend the unalienable right to life, and my Administration is committed to protecting our society's most vulnerable members. . .GEORGE W. BUSH