

Revelation #38

Trevor Farnsley was the speaker on

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Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon

Today's Message: Releasing Your Grip from the World; Revelation 14:14-20

Some preliminary comments:

1) Scripture, all Scripture is profitable for us. Revelation is no exception. It too has the power to do what Hebrews 4:12 tells us the Word of God does: "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Revelation also reveals a great truth about God, and does well just what Hebrews 4:13 says, "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Clearly, as the Revelation unfolds we see this truth about God and about man and the searching power of God come into living color!

2) I want to list some foundational Scriptures that dovetail with Revelation 14:14-20, and attach a short note to direct your thoughts to recall each foundational Scripture. Each of the following verses highlight an aspect of the Supremacy of Christ in the judgment of the inhabitants of the earth:

a) **Matthew 3:11-12**, John the Baptist speaks of the "winnowing fork" of Christ and His right to separate the wheat and the chaff;

b) **Joel 3:9-14**, Joel sees prophetically much of what John reveals concerning Christ and the coming judgment: i. The final judgment, ii. The imagery of a sickle like we see in Revelation 14:14-20, which is used to depict the future reaping for judgment; iii. And Joel sees the "winepress" of God's wrath just as it is revealed in 14:14-20.

c) **Daniel 7:13-14**, Daniel sees the Supremacy of the same Son of Man that John sees in Revelation 14:14.

d) **Matthew 24:30** Jesus speaks of the revelation of the Son of Man in the last days and the effect that revelation will have on the nations: The nations will mourn at the sight of this same Son of Man.

e) **Matthew 26:63-64** Jesus tells His disciples that they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of Heaven. John sees this in His vision in 14:14.

f) **Isaiah 63:1-6** Isaiah sees the Lord Messiah, having finished His work as Savior, now completing His work of wrath, having "trodden the winepress [of God's judgment] alone."

Each of these verses dovetail with John's revelation of the coming wrath of God in judgment against the inhabitants of the world as seen in Revelation 14:14-20.

With these supporting Scriptures in mind, as you read and study Revelation the first thing you as the reader must do is train yourself to behold the Lord Jesus Christ and glory in His role as Victor! Then, in

response to the revelation of Jesus Christ as it unfolds in the book of Revelation willingly **release your grip from the world!** I think that is one of the important application points that we can take away from this study both including today's text and in the grand scheme of the entire Revelation!

Really, it is good to ask yourself, "What does the world have that I would ever want to hold on to?"

I don't think we can comprehend the degradation and rapid descent into depravity– the rapid downhill slide of nations around the world. And while many groups and individuals try desperately to mitigate the problems brought about by sin. In a real sense things are not as bad as they could be, some good is being accomplished, but in comparison to corruption and breakdown of once hallowed moral boundaries the efforts prove to be falling behind.

A case in point is the worldwide network of human trafficking. Even with ever expanding rescue ministries engaging in battle against this dark underworld, the victories, though something to be celebrated, are not keeping pace with the proliferation of the buying and selling of human souls. Tim Tebow is a famous sports celebrity who has made it his mission to bring awareness to this human tragedy. Nevertheless, even with all the widespread positive exposure of the problem by well-known celebrities like Mr. Tebow, the explosive global growth of high speed internet, online transactions for human trafficking is skyrocketing. And, sad to say, but the United States is the largest purveyor of human trafficking and sex slavery. (Note: And, to bring it closer to home, Indianapolis has become one of the main hubs for trafficking humans for the sex slave trade.)

Do we really want to hold on to a world like that? A world whose collective conscience is scarcely pricked when sin and the symptoms of depravity are right before our eyes?

No! But how do we let go? We will begin releasing our grip from the world the more we see and behold the Lord Jesus Christ!

I. (14:14-15) Release Your Grip by Beholding the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. 14:14 brings us to another scene in our progress toward the final judgment.
 - 1. The transitional phrase, "I looked," gives the clue to view a new scene.
 - 2. And, it is important to note that this section of Rev. 14 will be expounded on in Revelation 16, 17, 18, and 19.
 - a) This section is like a movie trailer
- B. Key Revelation: One "like a son of man."
 - 1. John does not call this One an angel, but instead, "a son of man."
 - 2. Other key points concerning or involving this "son of man":
 - a) A cloud (Shekinah Glory of God: See Matthew 17:5)
 - b) Sitting on the cloud (Daniel 7:13. The Son of Man sitting on the cloud)

c) He wears a crown of gold (a Victor's crown; the crown of *the champion*.
See Revelation 1:13)

d) A sickle

(1) A sharp sickle in His hand

(a) Son of man is prepared to harvest

(b) Son of man has a purpose in harvesting

(c) Son of man will, indeed, harvest with speed and finality.

(2) (Note: Trevor gave a helpful description of how a sickle works
and the necessity of keeping a sharp, well-honed razor edge.)

(3) The Son of man will actually initiate this work of reaping (see
14:16)

C. (14:15) John sees the first of three angels in this section (14:14-20): "Another angel"

1. This angel comes speedily out of the Temple

a) Presumably from before the Throne of the Father in Heaven.

(1) The place where God dwells

2. The angel calls out to Him who sits on the cloud

a) Is the angel exercising authority over Him who sits on the cloud?

(1) No!

(2) The angel "calls" out to Him

(a) The angel is a messenger sent from God.

(b) The angel informs the son of man that it is time to initiate
the long anticipated harvest of the souls of men.

(i) The Father alone knows the day and the hour

(a) Matthew 24:36, "But concerning the day
and hour **no one knows**, not even the
angels of heaven, nor the Son, **but the
Father only.**"

(c) This is the Day of the Lord.

(i) A day God has looked forward too.

D. (14:16) The One sitting on the cloud swings His sickle

1. Without hesitation

2. He swings it over the earth and earth was harvested/ reaped

a) With precision

(1) There is a separation at this reaping

(a) None of His living-at-the-time tribulation saints will be
lost!

- (i) John 6:39, “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given Me.”

II. (14:17-19) Release your grip from the world, judgment is come on the earth dwellers

A. (14:17) Yet “another angel”

1. This angel also came out from the temple in heaven
2. He too had a sharp sickle
 - a) He will swing his sickle at the command of the third angel of 14:18
 - b) But this second angel with the sickle waits for the command

B. (14:18) A third angel came **from the altar**

1. He had fire from the altar
 - a) He is in charge of the fire
 - (1) See Revelation 8:1-5. I think it is the same angel. In 8:1-5 he carries out a preliminary launch of fire to earth prior to the first trumpet judgment.
 - b) The fire from the altar should remind us of the “souls of the saints” under the altar (Rev. 6:9-11).
 - (1) At that time they were crying out, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the earth and avenge our blood?”
 - (2) These events in Revelation 14:14-20 will certainly satisfy those saints who have waited patiently for The Day of the Lord!
2. He commands the angel of 14:17 to swing his sickle
 - a) “Put in your sickle” and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine
 - (1) Because they are ripe for harvest
 - (a) In other words, it is time for the final judgment to begin.
 - (i) Gather the grapes for the winepress of God’s wrath

C. (14:19) The angel of 14:17 obeys the command from the angel of 14:18

1. Without delay, instantly, the angel swings his sickle
 - a) Gathers the ripe grapes of the earth (earth dwellers/ unbelievers)
 - b) And gathers them and throws them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.

III. (14:20) Release your grip from the world, repent, for the day of God’s wrath is coming

A. The wrath is not coming upon Believers

1. Neither upon the Raptured saints, nor upon those who died during the tribulation, nor those who survive the tribulation

- a) Romans 8:1: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus..."
- b) But repentance is the right thing to do.
 - (1) "Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." (Colossians 3:1-2)
- c) This judgment is a comfort for all who have longed for His appearing
 - (1) We've been saved from God and His wrath
 - (2) We've been brought into the Kingdom of the Son He loves!
- B. Wrath is coming on all who rejected Christ during the days of tribulation.
 - 1. The Lord Himself will "tread His winepress" (see Isaiah 63:1-6)
 - a) He, alone, will tread the grapes of wrath.
- C. The winepress of God's wrath
 - 1. Outside the City
 - a) The millennial city where Christ will be seated on David's throne
 - (1) Remember, Christ suffered on the cross outside the city (Present day Jerusalem) (see Hebrews 13:12)
 - (2) Christians also suffer for Christ, and in a figurative sense we, along with Christians of the past, suffer outside the city as we identify with Christ.
 - 2. Out from the winepress of God's wrath the blood of the earth dwellers will run for 200 miles (1600 stadia).
 - a) This indicates that this judgment will be comprehensive. No living earth dweller at the time of this gathering will be passed over.
 - (1) Perhaps 100's of millions if not billions of people.
- D. The aftermath of the winepress wrath
 - 1. Ezekiel 39 describes a seven month period to clean up the carnage

IV. Application

- A. This scene is presented to us who live now for several reasons
 - 1. That we would understand the seriousness of sin
 - a) God hates sin and impurity and will pour out His wrath because of it
 - 2. All who reject Christ will be judged and justly receive God's wrath:
 - a) His person— His Supremacy
 - b) His work— His Salvation
 - 3. The Gospel is to be believed and received

- a) God is merciful and very, very patient. Even in the last moments He holds out the Gospel (See Revelation 14:6-7)
 - (1) Today is the day of Salvation. Do not harden your hearts!
 - (2) Repent and believe the Gospel
 - (a) God is the God of **many chances!**