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Sermon Notes

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A Multitude Rejoicing in Heaven

Revelation 7:1-17

I have been in worship experiences all over the world...

In 1986, I worshipped under a tree in the Rift Valley in Kenya with a group of converts from the Maasai Tribe... one of the fiercest opponents of British rule in the early part of the 20th century, but a small number of them had come to genuine faith in Christ... we worshipped together in the heat, outdoors, sitting on simple wooden benches

The next summer, I worshipped in Peshawar, Pakistan with a tiny group of converts from Islam, who were helping us minister to refugees from Afghanistan... a very small group, but delightful to be with... amazing that there even are any at all

I have been in a small high rise apartment in the massive, sprawling city of Shanghai, a city of 24 million... the small cell church was no more than a dozen people; Ron Halbrooks and I had spent much of the day travelling over the massive lengths of the Shanghai railway system, and we hadn't scratched the surface... this tiny group of Christians fervently singing praise songs to cassette taped music from a boom box

I have worshiped in an Afrikaner church in South Africa, a large evangelical church in Oradea, Romania. I have worshiped in dirt floor, mud walls, corrugated aluminum roofed buildings in both Haiti and Kenya

The largest assembly I have ever preached to was in Pune, India... perhaps as many as 5000, sitting in plastic chairs under the open air in a large, dirt lot... yet even that large group of

worshippers was utterly dwarfed by the city of Pune which has over 3 million in population

The church Christi and I served in Tokushima, Japan, was the smallest congregation I have ever preached to on a Sunday morning... eight people beside my wife and Nathaniel and Jenny. The city itself has a population of over a quarter of a million people...

I have had the privilege of ministering all over the world, to Christian congregations of various sizes... but I have noticed that in every place, the church is outwardly insignificant compared to the surrounding population. The church is dwarfed by the world of unbelievers; after two thousand years, the church of Jesus Christ seems tiny and weak and unimpressive in almost every locality in which it gathers

This is a challenge to our faith... HOW OUTWARDLY UNIMPRESSIVE is the church of Jesus Christ

If Jesus Christ really is God, the only Savior of the world, then why is the church of Christ SO UNIMPRESSIVE visually? Why so small? So weak? So flawed? So hindered by sin?

This is an especially acute problem for cross-cultural missionaries, who have left everything to serve Christ in some challenging locale... saying goodbye to the Western lifestyle with all of its comforts, they settle into a whole new and much more difficult life in a third world country or in a Muslim capital city, or near a refugee tent city, or in a remote mountainous location.... They learn the language and the culture, slowly build relationships with the people... after a couple of years, they may see one or two persons showing any significant spiritual interest...

It is SO EASY to become discouraged at the outwardly unimpressive display of the local church... numerically, it seems like a blip on the screen of human history

Even more troubling, when we get involved in local church, we find that no church is perfect... church is made up of sinners, there's lots

of conflict and division and selfishness... the church is hardly glorious here on earth; we are all indwelt by a sin nature that is powerful

And so, we need God to give us a VISION of the final goal, of the glory of the church of Jesus Christ in eternity

No book of the Bible does this so powerfully as does the Book of Revelation

Revelation = UNVEILING

What is UNVEILED?? Christ, resurrected, glorified, powerful

What else is UNVEILED?? God, enthroned in heaven, brilliant in glory, surrounded by radiantly glorious created beings continuously worshiping him

What else is UNVEILED?? The future!! The wrath of God poured out on his enemies

What is FINALLY UNVEILED?? The church of Jesus Christ... the vast assembly of redeemed people from all over the world... and it is stunning!

This unveiling is the CLIMAX of the Bible... and its fulfillment will be the climax of all of history

Wizard of Oz: Climactic scene... Dorothy and her friends return to the Emerald City to see the "wonderful wizard of Oz" to ask him to keep his promise to help them... they stand cowering as this awesome voice keeps booming, making them all terrified; but Dorothy's little dog Toto runs to a little curtain off to the side and opens it, revealing an older man who is operating some machine and speaking into a microphone... the voice booms out,

"pay no attention to that man behind the curtain" ...

The pulling back of the curtain reveals a disappointing FRAUD; effectively a snake oil salesman who can't help them at all

But the unveiling of God in the Book of Revelation is exactly the opposite... he is vastly MORE powerful and glorious than we can imagine; and the unveiling of Christ is also overwhelmingly satisfying – he is vastly more radiant and beautiful and powerful than we could have imagined... here we have portrayed what the church will look like when all the evangelism and missions work is finally done

The Great Commission:

Matthew 28:19-20 go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you

Matthew 24:14... promise that the gospel will be preached throughout the world... but no guarantee that it will be a success

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

BUT... Revelation 7:9-10 ... promise that it WILL be successful

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

So, right now, all over the world, the church looks outwardly unimpressive... about 7% of the world's population

Even more troubling, the church is not yet perfect – still troubled by the sins of its members

But SOMEDAY it will be massive and glorious... unveiled in its full glory

Revelation 7 pictures this beautifully...

Immediate context:

I. "Who Shall Be Able to Stand?" (6:17-7:3)

A. An Interlude that Explains Everything

1. Understand the flow of this amazing vision

- a. The Apostle John is on the Island of Patmos, in exile for his bold and faithful service to Christ
- b. On that little rocky island, he has a vision of a doorway opened into the heavenly realms... and the overpowering voice of Christ invites him to soar through the heavens, enter through the doorway, and peer into the glories of that lofty domain
- c. But only by the power of the Spirit can John obey this command... and the Spirit indeed lifts him up and empowers him to do the supernatural
- d. As he passes through the open doorway, he immediately sees a throne in heaven with someone seated on it
- e. That person is none other than Almighty God, the Creator of the Ends of the Earth
- f. He is radiant in glory, and his throne is surrounded by twenty-four other thrones with elders seated on them
- g. And he is receiving continual worship from a hundred million angels who praise him as God the Creator of the universe

Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

h. Then comes the dramatic scene of Revelation 5... in the right hand of the one seated on the throne is a scroll, sealed with seven seals

i. A mighty angel proclaims the searching question:

Revelation 5:2 "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"

j. But no one is found in the entire universe worthy to take the scroll and break open the seals

k. Then suddenly Jesus Christ is revealed... he comes forward, the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah", but also a Lamb looking as if it had been slain

l. He is WORTHY to take the scroll and break open its seals...

m. And when Christ takes the scroll, all of heaven breaks into overwhelming worship in praise of the Lamb who had been slain... Christ the Redeemer

Revelation 5:9-10 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

n. In Revelation 6, Jesus Christ commences to break open the seals

o. The first four seals result in the famous "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse"... an unleashing of a series of escalating trials on the earth... a deceptive peace, war, famine, and death

p. The fifth seal shows martyrs who have been slain in heaven crying for justice

q. The sixth seal brings in symbolic language the end of the physical universe... the earth is removed, the stars in the sky are falling... people are screaming and running for cover

Revelation 6:16-17 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from

the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

- r. This final haunting question is in the air as Revelation 7 opens
- s. It is absolutely VITAL for us to understand the answer to that question... when the wrath of God is unleashed on the inhabitants of the earth, who shall be able to stand?
- t. Revelation 7 is an INTERLUDE... an INTERRUPTION in the seven seals... Christ has opened the sixth seal, and the seventh seal he will open in Revelation 8... in between is this magnificent Revelation 7
- u. It answers the question by revealing a vision of 144,000 sealed from the sons of Israel, and then a multitude so vast no one could count it from every tribe, language, people, and nation on earth...
- v. The first vision is one of protection on earth, and the second is one of final reward, protection, and provision in eternity in heaven
- w. These are the ones who can survive the terrifying day of God's wrath that is coming on all the earth
- x. The only REFUGE is salvation in Christ... being washed through the blood of the Lamb
- y. Revelation 7 is about how God creates a REFUGE from his own wrath for the elect... the signed, sealed, and delivered chosen people of God, both from Israel and from every nation on earth

II. 144,000 Sealed from the Sons of Israel (vs. 7:4-8)

The beginning of the culmination of the redemption of the Jews, of the nation of Israel... a vision of the glory of Christ finally shining among his own people

The next vision is broader, more massive, more overwhelming... and the fulfillment of God's purpose in the original call of Abraham

Genesis 12:2-3 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

III. A Multitude from Every Nation Redeemed and Rejoicing (vs. 7:9-12)

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

A. This is the Goal of All Redemptive History

1. Unlike the 144,000, this number is so vast it cannot be counted
2. The redeemed come from every NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE, and LANGUAGE
 - a. These are the various divisions of all the human race on planet earth
 - b. Obviously all these distinctions arose after the flood of Noah; because at that time, every human being on earth was descended from ONE MAN, and from ONE MAN everything flowed:

Acts 17:26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

After the flood, people began spreading out...

At the Tower of Babel, God confused the languages and people began to separate and move out

the sons of Shem, Ham, and Japheth settled in different places on earth... in secluded mountain valleys, and distant plains and

grasslands, in swamps and desert regions, in the coastlands and the far islands

As they settled there, they developed their own languages, dialects, customs, patterns of life, technologies

- i) “Nation” = political divisions... a nation-state with a unified government and an army and national borders
 - ii) “Tribe” = genetic divisions... descendants from a common ancestor
 - iii) “People” = cultural distinctions... perhaps the way they dress, cook, build their homes, set up their society
 - iv) “Language” = the way they speak... the gift of language is very much of the issue of us being created in the image of God
 - (i) there are perhaps as many as 6700 or 6800 distinct languages
 - (ii) Drew and Emily Maust are working with SIL and Wycliffe to translate in Cameroon
- c. The vision of God is that some from every possible human distinction will be in heaven, trophies of his amazing grace
3. Out of the churning mass of the sea of humanity, God by his gospel calls his elect and they will survive the Great Tribulation of human history
 4. This is the sure and certain vision of the success of the Great Commission and the promise of the spread of the gospel

B. How they Are Described

1. Their ethnic distinctives are obvious in the vision to John
2. They LOOK different from each other... so their nation and cultural differences will be evident even in heaven

- a. Perhaps a matter of their clothing; their hairstyles; perhaps they have distinctive adornments
 - b. Perhaps in their glory they still retain some genetic differences...
 - c. Maybe it's just one of those prophetic visions in which John just KNOWS where they are from without being told
3. This is a large part of the GLORY and ACHIEVEMENT of the cross... that people from such widely varying backgrounds and cultures can love the same Jesus, trust the same Jesus, worship the same Jesus!
4. They are STANDING before the Throne and in front of the Lamb
- a. Here is the sweet and awesome answer to the terrified question of those fleeing God and Christ: WHO IS ABLE TO STAND
 - b. These redeemed from every tribe ARE able to stand
 - c. Stand = a picture of salvation, of vindication... stand victorious, stand triumphant, stand glorious
5. Wearing WHITE ROBES = a clear symbol of purity and holiness; they are free from their sins, atoned for by the blood of Christ
6. Holding PALM BRANCHES in their hands
- a. Again, this is a picture of VICTORY
 - b. The palm branches were strewn in the path of a conquering general to celebrate his mighty victory over the enemy
 - c. Jesus in his triumphal entry was so honored by the population
 - d. And here, there is a sense that they are ready to cast their palm branches before Christ to give him FULL CREDIT for their salvation

Revelation 7:10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

- e. To God alone is the glory for their salvation

f. This is the **WHOLE PURPOSE** of missions!! Worship!!

John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad*:

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.

7. Here is a picture of that heavenly worship by those redeemed from these distant lands... they will spend eternity giving God and Christ the **FULL CREDIT** for their salvation

8. Now... our world is **RIPPED APART** by divisions; racial divisions, ethnic divisions, national divisions... socioeconomic divisions... cultural divisions... because of the wretched history of **SIN and VIOLENCE and OPPRESSION and EXPLOITATION** by human beings throughout all of history, there is so much hatred... and no amount of diplomacy or education can heal it

9. As we saw plainly in Ephesians, in Christ alone is the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility finally torn down

10. This vision is the hope of genuine unity among all peoples

C. Here is our **ENCOURAGEMENT**... because Missions Can Outwardly Seem So Discouraging and Pathetically Small

1. At any locale, missions is almost always unimpressive

2. I have spoken to veteran missionaries with the IMB in regions all over the world; they are the best people our denomination has sent out to reach the lost and they are only 4000 in number... they speak of meeting with this guy or trying reach this family or a handful of people interested in a Bible study... they are faithful, they lead a few people to Christ, plant a few small struggling churches

- a. If it weren't for this amazing vision of Revelation 7, we might think the whole thing is a COLOSSAL FAILURE
- b. BUT we need to keep this in mind: Christ NEVER LOSES A SINGLE ONE of his sheep... the number is cumulative... over the CENTURIES

Mark 12:26-27 Now about the dead rising-- have you not read in the book of Moses, in the account of the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!"

In other words, I AM ABRAHAM'S GOD RIGHT NOW!! He's still alive, absent from the body, present with the Lord

John 6:39-40 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

The heavenly throne keeps getting bigger and bigger, and ALMOST every tribe and language and people and nation is already represented... and when we see it with our own eyes, we will be stunned at the sheer magnitude of what God in Christ and the Holy Spirit has accomplished

Illus: My last winter in Massachusetts; Five blizzards of 1993... the snow just kept accumulating; it never went anywhere

That's a picture of the true success of the gospel... the true church of Christ has only been growing and growing for twenty centuries!!!

The "percentages" won't matter then... those number were always going to be SMALL:

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

D. The Angels Join in the Celebration!!

Revelation 7:11-12 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

1. If ONE SINNER being converted results in such heavenly joy, how much more joy will there be when the full company of the elect is finally there, finally saved!!
2. Clearly God will get the full credit... the angels know very well that only by the sovereign power and love and grace of God has this vast multitude from all over the world been redeemed!!
3. It is the greatest display of God's glory there has ever been! All the attributes of God are on display: WISDOM... POWER... STRENGTH... all of these deserve THANKS and PRAISE and HONOR

IV. The Rewards of the Righteous: Eternal Worship, Protection, Provision (7:13-17)

Revelation 7:13-17 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes-- who are they, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴ I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. ¹⁶ Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

A. A Question from one of the Elders

1. Remarkable moments in heaven
2. John sometimes stops to talk with one of the inhabitants of heaven... an angel or a living creature or an elder on one of the thrones

3. Or sometimes, they initiate with him! As is the case here
4. The question: WHERE DID THESE IN THE WHITE ROBES COME FROM??
5. Their history is important! And the elder wants to talk about it
6. NOTE: heaven is not a place of forgetfulness concerning our personal history, but actually of remembrance
7. And even painful memories are worthy of recounting... but in heaven there will be NO PAIN or ANGUISH or SHAME or MOURNING or TEARS in the recounting even of the most painful stories
8. John wisely defers saying, “Sir, you know!!”

B. The Elder Tells their Story

1. They have **come out of** the “Great Tribulation”
 - a. They escaped with their souls!
 - b. They were shielded by God’s power and their faith endured
2. For futurists, this means the final tribulation that comes in the seven years right before the Second Coming of Christ...

^{KJV} Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Daniel 12:1 There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people-- everyone whose name is found written in the book-- will be delivered.

3. Thus MacArthur calls the multitude in Revelation 7:9 “Tribulation Saints”... limiting this picture to only those converted in that narrow seven-year time frame
4. But I cannot so limit this... I think the tribulation has been going on since the apostolic age, with differing levels of intensity in every era of church history

5. The terrible time right at the end of the world during the reign of Antichrist will be different in intensity, but not in its essential nature
6. So, these are all the redeemed that had to suffer and endure the attacks of the world, the flesh and the devil... to run their race with endurance against great opposition... these are the OVERCOMERS who persevered to the end and were saved... this is ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS
7. They **“washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”**
 - a. This refers to BOTH positional righteousness through faith in Christ AND the process of sanctification by which they did the works that flowed from genuine faith
 - b. They drank from Christ’s cup of suffering and saw their faith PURIFIED by that suffering
 - c. In this way, they showed themselves GENUINE Christians

C. Their Stories

1. I long to write a book someday about heavenly memories... what we will remember in heaven
2. Revelation 7 gives us a clear indication that the detailed stories of the previous sufferings and glorious overcoming that was done by the church will be remembered and told in heaven
3. At my last IMB Trustee meeting, they gave me two sheets summarizing the achievements of 2016
 - a. The first sheet was statistics
 - How many people heard a gospel witness: 1,938,973
 - How many people became new believers: 175,290
 - How many believers were baptized: 93,922

- b. But the second sheet was entitled “Field Stories”... accounts of glorious details from our personnel on the mission field... for me, this was even more exciting
- i) These stories were sanitized and stripped of details to protect the identities of both workers and the people they are seeking to reach
 - ii) “Saigon, Vietnam: through the work of a college student team they met a young woman named “Spring”... the Lord brought her to faith and I am happy to report this morning she is being baptized!”
 - iii) “Here in a tribal region in India, we have started a reproducible theological training among local church leaders, enabling their churches to stand firm under increasing government pressure.”
 - iv) “In Malawi, three village elders camped three days by the side of the road hoping to meet us. Stopping us, they asked ‘Are you the people bringing the message of God to the surrounding villages? Our village has no god... will you please bring God to our village?’”
 - v) “On the Northwest coast of Ecuador, the gospel is being shared with a fisherman. His wife was baptized last year, and we are trusting God that as Bible studies are being held in his home, he will also come to Christ.”
 - vi) “Amazing access to the many refugees coming through Athens, Greece, and national partners leading Iranians and some Afghans to faith in Christ and then discipling them one on one and in small groups.”

I CAN'T WAIT to hear the full stories of this multitude... we will have all eternity to bask in the details of what God did to save them through faith in Christ... we will hang on every word!!!

D. Their Rewards

1. Access to God and Continual Opportunity to Worship Him

Revelation 7:15 Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple

- a. The word "serve" = worship
- b. The temple, however, is not a building... but it is Christ himself... the place where God and man come together
- c. The phrase "night and day" shows the ongoing nature of this assembly... it is continually growing as the gospel spreads... for in the eternal state, there will be no more night

2. Protection

Revelation 7:15-16 and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. ¹⁶ Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.

- a. This is the picture of protection by the sovereign power of God
- b. In heaven, there is NO SUFFERING that can reach them... that time will be over forever
- c. The spreading of the tent over the people is a picture of HUSBANDLY protection... as when Ruth said to Boaz

Ruth 3:9 "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer."

As Boaz had earlier said to her:

Ruth 2:12 May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

And as the Psalmist said to the Lord:

Psalm 36:7-8 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. ⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.

3. Provision

So the picture of freedom from all want... hunger, thirst, heat...
nothing can harm them

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

V. Applications

A. Come to Christ... there is NO OTHER REFUGE!!

1. Those fleeing the wrath of God in Revelation 6 sought a refuge:

Revelation 6:16-17 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

2. The only refuge there is from the wrath of an omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent God is Christ
3. Christ died on the cross to deliver sinners like you and me from the wrath to come
4. All of Revelation 7 has been to answer that question... "Who is able to stand?"
5. Only those who flee to Christ!

B. Christians: Delight in that Refuge!

1. Understand the amazing grace that has sheltered you and will shelter you from the wrath to come
2. Realize that God is holding back the winds of his hurricane that is coming... holding it back from YOU
3. Give thanks to God for your salvation, as the angels do in verses 11-12

Revelation 7:11-12 They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom

and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

4. Since we will be spending eternity giving God the glory, let's do it now

C. Be Humbled by the God-Centered Worship of Heaven

1. Your salvation BELONGS TO GOD and TO THE LAMB
2. Stop all your boasting! Let him who boasts boast in the Lord!
3. Stop boasting in your achievements... they are dust in the wind
4. Stop boasting in your money... it will not buy anything of lasting value if not given in service to the Kingdom
5. Stop boasting in your strength or beauty or athletic ability or intelligence... all those attributes are temporary and will fade away
6. Boast in what God has done to save a multitude greater than anyone could count

D. Delight in the Multi-Ethnic Nature of Heaven

1. People from every tribe and language and people and nation!
2. God delights in AMORAL DIVERSITY... so should we!

E. Be Encouraged About the Final End of Missions... Despite the Seemingly Pathetic Failure It Often Appears to Be

1. Jesus himself appeared unimpressive... Isa. 53: ***"He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him; nothing in his appearance that we should desire him."*** Yet look how gloriously he appears in heaven!
2. The church is outwardly unimpressive... but look what it will be someday

F. Commit Yourself to the Great Commission and to Missions

1. Let's keep praying, giving, going
2. Let's make sacrifices that we will NOT regret on Judgment Day
3. Let's support our missionaries better than ever before!