

Living Before the Throne

Revelation 7

Big Idea: The 144,000 sealed servants remind us: God knows His own. Our salvation—past, present, future—belongs entirely to Him. We're called to worship with profound reverence, not casual observance. Living coram Deo means every moment is lived before the face of God.

Main Points

1. God's Perfect Timing and Protection - The four angels hold back judgment until God's people are sealed, demonstrating His sovereignty and care.
2. The 144,000 Sealed Servants - Literal Jewish believers during the tribulation, sealed and protected by God for evangelistic purposes.
3. The Great Multitude - An innumerable crowd from every nation, tribe, and tongue who came through the great tribulation.
4. True Worship - A model of worship that is completely focused on God, reverent, joyful, and without deviation.
5. Stages of Salvation - Past (justification), Present (sanctification), Future (glorification).
6. Living Coram Deo - Living daily in the very presence of God, now and for eternity.

Scriptures:

- Revelation 6:17
- Ezekiel 11:14-21
- Zechariah 13:1, 8-9
- Romans 11:25-27, 29
- Revelation 14:1-4
- Ezekiel 9:4-6
- Ephesians 4:30
- Deuteronomy 30:1-5
- Mark 3:13-14
- 1 Corinthians 1:18
- Matthew 24:21
- Revelation 3:10
- Hebrews 9:14

Memory Verse - Revelation 7:10b

"...Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Opening Question:

Share about a time when you finally "came home" after a long trip or difficult journey. What made that homecoming meaningful?

Discussion Questions:

What does it mean that believers are "sealed" by God? How does this compare to the sealing mentioned in Ephesians 4:30?

The sermon emphasized that Revelation 7 describes "real events." Why is it important to understand this as actual future reality rather than symbolic storytelling?

Mark asked: "When we worship, are we reverent? Are we serious? Are we casual? Are we half-hearted?" How would you honestly assess your current approach to worship?

Discuss the three stages of salvation mentioned in the sermon: **Past**: Calling and faith (justification), **Present**: Being saved (sanctification), **Future**: Glorification. Which stage do you find most difficult to understand or embrace? Why?

The multitude before the throne acknowledges "the full circle of their salvation." What does it mean to you that your salvation will one day be consummated in glorification?

The sermon described worship in heaven as "completely about God...in a state of utter humility and devotion." What would change about your personal or corporate worship if you modeled it after Revelation 7:11-12?

The concept of coram Deo (living in the very presence of God) was highlighted. How does this truth affect: Your daily decisions? Your perspective on trials? Your relationships?

The sermon noted that serving God is "not a burden" but "a colossal privilege" and "exuberant joy." How can we shift our mindset from seeing Christian service as obligation to experiencing it as joyful privilege?

Practical Applications:

1. **Worship Audit** - Before each time of worship (personal devotions, church service, small group), pause and ask: "Am I approaching this with the reverence and joy described in Revelation 7?" Journal your observations.
2. **Coram Deo Living** - Set three daily reminders on your phone with the phrase "Living before the face of God." When they go off, pause and consciously acknowledge God's presence and adjust your attitude or actions accordingly.
3. **Gratitude for Stages** - Each day this week, thank God specifically for one of the three stages of salvation: Days 1-2: Thank Him for your justification (past); Days 3-5: Thank Him for your ongoing sanctification (present); Days 6-7: Thank Him for your promised glorification (future)

Closing Thought/Prayer:

What "work" are you currently doing that you need to surrender the glory for? How does the vision of Revelation 7 help you maintain proper perspective on your earthly efforts?