

Third Sunday of End Time - Saints Triumphant

Sermon Road Map

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Revelation 22:1-5

November 17, 2019

Welcome Home Where Our Triumph is Obvious and Eternal

- When Autumn was baptized - God wrote his name on her: *In the name...*
 - ♦ God's work in baptism nor his name are obvious, but they are there.
- Many look down on Christians, their beliefs, world-view, way of life
 - ♦ They put a different name on our foreheads: "L" for loser
 - ♦ Paul wrote: ***If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*** 1 Corinthians 15:19
 - If Jesus **didn't** rise from the dead, we are losers. Baptism is nothing!
 - ♦ **Fact:** We are followers of the only One who ever triumphed over death. With Jesus as our Lord, we are Saints Triumphant - obvious or not
 - ♦ *Revelation* came to believers *feeling* like losers - *to reveal* their **victory**
 - We still need this message and reminder - a daily orientation.
 - We regularly gather as a family to hear our Father say:

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- It's easy to see our *now* - tricked into thinking it's forever reality. It's not!
- ❖ **Look at our Forever Home** - courtesy of this vision.
 - Our new forever physical home/community after the Resurrection
 - ♦ Our text follows John's description of its magnificent beauty.
 - ♦ Our text: Focus on the key critical features of our Forever Home:
 - God provides a river of water that is life itself
 - God provides the Tree of Life: giving healing and abundant life
 - God dwells among us - beaming down on us with his love and favor
 - We bear his name - belong to his family - forever!
 - Our purpose/meaning: serve him who is good, kind - what an honor!
 - There: safe, secure, all we need for abundant curse-free life **forever**.
 - This seems so far away. God gives us a taste of this home - here and now.
- ❖ **Here: Among our Everlasting Family**
 - In Baptism the Triune God puts his name on us: *your God - my people*
 - Triumphant because Jesus - Immanuel: God with us - dwells among us
 - ♦ ***Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*** Mt. 18:20
 - ♦ ***And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*** Mt. 28:20
 - ♦ John sees the Son of Man standing in the midst of his churches. Rev. 1:13

- God's river of life-giving water goes with us: cleaning, refreshing, and renewing us with his forgiveness. ***Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.*** John 7:38
- Every Sunday God renews his blessing:
 - The LORD bless you and keep you;***
 - the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;***
 - the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.*** Numbers 6:24-26
 - ♦ These are not just words or Pastor's wish. God seals his blessing!
- Just what we need to see, We're not *losers!* Our victory is sealed.
 - ♦ People go to great lengths for healing hot springs. mud baths, etc.
 - None provides the healing of God's forgiveness offered in word, water, wafer, and wine - offered right here in this church family
- Renewed in God's promises, it's **obvious** to us: Victory is ours in Christ.
- ❖ **We need Christ's assurance of Victory in the face of death.**
 - *He lost his battle with kidney failure. - 3 years ago I lost my mom.*
 - ♦ That's how we speak about death. It came. We couldn't stop it.
 - Jesus can. Jesus has. He defeated death. He doesn't lose his own to death!
 - ♦ Our God is the God of the living. All who die living in Jesus Christ, never die. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - all our family in Jesus live.
 - *Welcomed Home where their triumph is obvious and eternal.*
 - ♦ Sadly, those who considered Jesus a loser - of no value - death will expose them as the losers - for all eternity. Separated from life/God.
 - Share with them what Jesus gives us: *immediate relief from the guilt, tyranny of my sin, and the fear of death. Profound peace with God.*
 - *I don't want to lose you forever. I want you to be Welcomed Home...*
 - Jesus promises: ***And they will reign for ever and ever.*** Rev. 22:5
 - ♦ Healed from the curse. Rescued from sin. Made new - **we reign**
 - Neither death nor sin will have any control or influence over us.
 - Victory is ours **totally - forever.** Our **Triumph** will be **obvious.**
 - Now: Fix your eyes, hearts, and minds on this reality.
 - Triumph over death every day by anticipating the fulfillment of all of God's promises when he says...

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