

God's Pep Talk!

Revelation 14:12-13

East Berlin Community Church

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October 9, 2022

Introduction

- It takes a coaching genius to motivate a weary, downtrodden team to continue the battle, to overcome the obstacles, to achieve victory! Our God is such a coach!
- The tribulation period will be a terrible time to be alive on planet earth, especially for the earth-dwellers, those who have rejected the gospel.
 - They will experience the devastating effects of God's judgments.
 - The seventh trumpet announces the Final Act, which will unleash even greater judgments on the earth.
 - Revelation 11:15-- *"The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever"*
 - To the earth dwellers, God issues a Final Call through three angelic messengers.
 - First Messenger: A call to salvation. Preaches the gospel to everyone
 - Second Messenger: A warning of judgment on the world system they are trusting in.
 - Third Messenger: A warning to those who received the mark of the beast of dire eternal consequences.
 - God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But in spite of these three angels efforts, many will refuse to believe in Christ, but will believe the lies of the Antichrist.
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:10b-12-- *"because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*
- The tribulation period will also be a terrible time to be alive for those who have become believers during this time.
 - Many will come to faith during this time through the ministry of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and the two witnesses.
 - They will experience the effects of many of the devastating judgments on the earth.
 - They will be living in a world that is controlled by the Satanically indwelt Antichrist.
 - Refusing to receive his mark, they will have to somehow eke out a living to survive.
 - Refusing to bow in worship of the Antichrist, they will be marked for torture and death.
 - Revelation 12:17b-- *"make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ"*
 - Revelation 13:8-- *"...granted to make war with the saints and to overcome them."*
 - Revelation 6:9b-11-- *"under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."*
 - They will be living under tremendous pressure from family and friends to give up their allegiance to Jesus Christ and to buy into the Antichrist's program.

God's Pep Talk

- Revelation 14:12-13-- *"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "' Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.'"*

A. *“Here is the patience of the saints”-- Don’t give up or give in! Endure to the End!*

1. *How is it possible to endure? The Perseverance of the Saints!*

a. **God keeps His own!!**

1) **God has promised to keep us eternally.**

- Psalm 37:23-28-- *“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand. I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lends; and his descendants are blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore. For the LORD loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.”*
- Isaiah 43:1-7-- *“But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, and people for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth— Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”*
- John 3:16 -- *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*
- John 5:24-- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”*

2) **God’s promise rests on His will and plan!**

- John 6:37-40-- *“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*
- Romans 8:29-30-- *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”*
- Romans 11:29-- *“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”*

3) **God has the power to hold on to those who are His!**

- John 10:27-29-- *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”*

4) **We can do nothing to lose our salvation, for salvation is wholly by God’s grace.**

- Ephesians 2:8-9-- *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-- *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:24-- *“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”*

b. **We must endure to the end!!**

- Matthew 10:22-- *"And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."*
- Matthew 24:13-- *"But he who endures to the end shall be saved."*
- Colossians 1:21-23-- *"And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."*
- Revelations 14:12-13-- *"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. "' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.'"*

2. **By "Keeping the commandments of God"**

- John 8:31-- *"said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."*
- John 14:21-- *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

3. **By "Keeping faith in Jesus"**

- a. *"Keeping faith"*--an idiom which means to maintain loyalty or allegiance
- b. The temptation to change one's allegiance or loyalty in the midst of hardship, trials, pressure from the world.
- Hebrews 3:12-14-- *"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end." (Hebrews 3:12-14) The evidence that we are truly saved is that we will "hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end."*
- c. The evidence that we are truly saved is that we will endure. We will not change our allegiance!
- d. We endure by keeping our eyes on Jesus! Keep trusting Him!
- Hebrews 10:32-36-- *"But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."*
 - Hebrews 10:37-38-- *"For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."*
 - Hebrews 12:1-2-- *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

B. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord!"

- Revelation 14:13-- *"Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."*

1. **Many tribulation saints will be die because of their faith.**

- Revelation 7:9-10-- *"Behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*
- Revelation 7:14-- *"These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

2. **But they will "die in the Lord!"**

- a. To *"die in the Lord"* means to remain faithful to the very end of life, and make Christ the center or sphere of your existence.
- b. The blessing is not only for the tribulation saint who might be martyred but for all believers

3. **Two Benefits of "dying in the Lord"**

- a. **REST--** *"that they may rest from their labors"*
 - Revelation 7:15-17-- *"they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*
 - 1) Eternal rest awaits us.
 - Hebrews 4:9-11-- *"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience."*
 - 2) No rest for the unbelievers
 - Revelation 14:10-11a-- *"shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."*
- b. **REWARDS--** *"their works follow them"*
 - Hebrews 6:10--*"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister."*
 - 2 Timothy 4:7-8-- *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."*

C. Challenge for us today to endure to the end.

- Hebrews 10:23-25-- *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."*