

Revelation 14: 5; "And in their Mouth was no Deceit", Sermon # 103 in the series – "The Faithful and True Witness", Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on June 6th, 2010, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

It has been a number of months since I have given you any sermons from this blessed book. It is because the farther that I go into it, the more I must ponder and meditate upon it. Chapters 20 to 22 are not so difficult, but these chapters 14-18 are, because they deal historically with how the Lord Jesus and His kingdom shall triumph over the Antichristian powers from the time period of Reformation on to the time of the Millennium, which is pictured in symbolic form in Chapter 20. We are still in the time period of the 1260 days prophecy, even though we are nearing the end of it, if I am not mistaken. There are many word pictures which are given to us in these chapters and I will attempt to do the best that I can to try to make right application to events in the history of the Church and the forward progress of the truth and Christ's kingdom, which are depicted for us here in these chapters. We are living in days when the baton of truth is being held on to, in the Reformed camp, and we are running with it; but we have not yet been able to be very successfully in passing it on to the coming generation so that they will take hold of it and run. Some of the younger generation, and some of our children, are picking up the baton of reformed truth, and others are not. Every generation should be faithful with the truth of God's Word; not only to hold it fast, and to hold it forth; but to pass it on if they can. Psalm 145, verse 4 says, "One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts." "I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works." "Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness." "They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your great goodness and shall sing of Your righteousness." Each generation of Christians tests the strength of the past generation in their hold on truth. If the older generation has really been trying to learn the truth and pass it on, it does not mean that they are unfaithful if their children do not pick it up and run with. But it is terribly sad when they do not. Many lessons which have been learned by one generation will have to be learned over again by the next. Or perhaps they will not learn them at all, and another generation will have to re-discover them. The best possible situation is when both the older and the younger generation will be praying and thinking about what they can together do to see the truth of the gospel and the Word of God promoted, and then encourage one another on, in being faithful with it. That is what I hope that we will be able to do as a church. This afternoon I first of all want to give you a little review of where we have been in the past sermons on verses 1-5. Then I would like to speak about how God's Elect come to speak truth and have no deceit in their mouths. And in my final point I will speak of the

importance of believing in God's help to enable us to be without guile when we are tested.

First – a little review of verses 1-5

Verse 5, which is our text, is the final verse in this little section of verses which introduces us to those faithful Christian witnesses, the one hundred and forty-four thousand, whom Christ will use mightily to promote the forward progress of His kingdom all through the time period of the 1260 days prophecy. They are His Elect people; they are His true Church; they are His faithful witnesses to the truth. The one hundred and forty-four thousand are the 12 tribes of spiritual Israel multiplied by the word of the 12 Apostles who gave them the truth. There are actually millions and perhaps even billions of people who are represented here. They are given grace to triumph over the Antichristian false worship and practice, even when at points, their witness is suppressed. I have repeatedly told you that I believe that these 1260 days are really the prophetic years; years when the truth of the Bible is suppressed by the Roman Catholic Church. That church has been substituting false doctrines for true during this whole time period. She has, through false doctrine and the use of false authority, been road-blocking the forward progress of the truth of the Word of God, not only among the nations of the 10 kingdoms of Europe, the 10 kingdoms of the Beast; but also now, in the last few hundred years, road-blocking the gospel's prevailing among the nations of the whole world as well. Christ's kingdom can only conquer and spread among the nations of the world, by people hearing and receiving the word of truth. They must have sound doctrine in order to be saved and to worship God in a way that pleases Him. During this time period, God's Elect will most certainly be gathered, and they will be worshipping God in spirit and in truth by holding fast and holding forth the truth of the Bible to as many as shall hear. The truth of the real gospel will be proclaimed; that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father; that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and He has grace to give to everyone who will believe in Him; that Jesus Christ is the risen, living Head of His church, and He governs it according to His Word, even as He sits as the right hand of the Father on high, waiting for His enemies to be made a footstool for His feet.

Because of these realities, Christ's true Church has, and they will, sing a New Song in their worship during these difficult years of the 1260 days prophecy. It is the song of Christ's triumphant work on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. It is the song of salvation by grace and not by works, sacramental or otherwise. It is the song of Christ's giving His people the power to live a sincere life of purity and holiness because of the greatness of His grace and truth working in their hearts. In these verses 1-5 in Chapter 14, we have seen that it is Christ and His Church who are standing together. Christ is standing on Mt. Zion in that His kingdom and cause will go forward through their witness. He stands with His people and upon their witness for the truth. It is only when the truths of Christ Lordship and His grace are preached, and when falsehood is revealed for what it is; that this Antichristian system of Rome will be brought down. In verse 2, it says, "I heard a voice in heaven...." This voice is the voice of Christ speaking through His Church in the

preaching of His Word. It is that voice which will eventually cause the walls of the city of the New Testament Babylon of Rome to fall. I said to you in past sermons, that for the New Testament Babylon to fall, people who are deceived by Rome must hear this voice of God's true worshippers. They must hear, 1st of all - The voice of Christ's true brethren speaking of their Adoption by the Father. They must hear secondly - The voice of the sound of the preaching of Law and grace being distinguished. Third - They must hear the voice of our singing and praises to God for the gift of Christ. And fourth - They must hear the voice of our sincere spiritual purity. We are today carrying on to completion this fourth point. We have already spoken of the fact that all of Christ's redeemed people are spiritual virgins. That is, they have not committed spiritual fornication with false Babylon. They have not believed in a false gospel of sacramental and ceremonial works being necessary for salvation, and if they did, they repented of it when they found that it was not true. They do not hold to doctrines of demons; doctrines like transubstantiation and the Mass being necessary to salvation. Doctrines which teach that the Pope is the Head of the Church, or that confession of heart sins must be made to a priest in a booth next to you, or that prayer should be made to Mary or to the saints; these doctrines are dishonoring to Christ. They keep people from being saved. No, when you came to Christ, you believed the gospel and you were betrothed to Him as a true spiritual virgin. You follow the Lamb wherever He goes; wherever the truth of the Bible and God Himself using that truth, leads you. If you are redeemed, you realize that you were purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and you no longer want to traffic with relativism or what is false. You believe in absolute truth, and you believe that that truth is found in the Bible. And you greatly desire to be a faithful witness to Christ. Those faithful saints of the past desired above all things to have no guile, and to faithfully bear witness to the truth. You also, if you are a true Christian; you desire to speak faithfully in regard to the things that you know.

Now 2ndly - I would like to speak about how God's Elect come to speak truth and have no deceit in their mouths.

The reason that Antichrist arose was because of the great abandonment of the preaching and teaching of the sound doctrine of the Word of God in the visible church. The Word of God is truth. Many men in, and after the days of Constantine in 325 A.D., were more interested in assuming positions of authority in the Church than they were in preaching and living the truth. This is what brought about the dark ages, monasticism, and many false doctrines being introduced into the churches of the 10 kingdoms of Europe. It was a very sad fact that many people who were in positions of authority in the Church did not abide in the truth of the Word, and many of those who were pastors and priests were not inclined to preach it faithfully. Many controversies over doctrine came before Church councils. Controversies over the person of Christ; (Arianism) controversies over whether Jesus was God or man; councils over whether man had original sin in his nature. (Pelagianism) Although some of these controversies were decided in favor of what the Bible clearly taught, there were still many men who were imposing their own authority upon the visible

Church, in matters of doctrine and practice. The worship of God through images was one example of this. Some men thought that it was perfectly legitimate to worship God through the use of images and they imposed their judgment upon the Scripture and set it up in their churches. In trying to decide these controversies, many men met together to talk, but it was difficult for them to come to a unity over this issue. This was around the year 800 A.D. This was how the Papacy eventually came into being. Men who became pastors and priests needed someone to decide these doctrinal controversies. The Bishop of Rome and his authority and jurisdiction in these matters eventually prevailed, but it was at the cost of truth. In regard to both salvation and worship compromises with the truth were made and the traditions of men prevailed. This led to the Babylonian Captivity of the New Testament Church. It led to the true Church being driven into the wilderness spiritually speaking. We have studied these things already.

But what has always been cheering and very significant to every lover of the forward progress of Christ's kingdom has been God's raising up certain men, at critical times, to bring about a recovery of the truth lost, and a reformation of the Church away from falsehood. These men were able to preach and teach the truth so that many others of God's Elect were saved and were made strong to stand for truth in their generation. It is important for us who sit here today to see that there were those who in past generations who taught and spoke the truth; that in their mouth was no guile, no trickiness, no deceit, no falsehood. Truth, after all, is the most important thing to Christ and should be to every Christian. God's Elect will speak the truth because their Master always spoke the truth. He said in John 14: 6, "I am the way and the truth, and the life, and no man comes to the Father except by Me." But turn with me to John Chapter 18 and I will show you how important truth was to our Lord Jesus. When our Lord Jesus was betrayed by Judas into the hands of the Jewish leaders, the council of the elders and the high priest; He gave further evidence of his having no deceit in His mouth. Verse 19 says, "The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine." "Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world, I always taught in the synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing." The Lord Jesus was always very straight-forward and open about what He taught. He was not a mystic, He was not a Philosopher, He was not a Meta-physician. He was a man who plainly and openly spoke the truth.

Look over at verse 33 now. "Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' "Jesus answered him, 'Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you about Me?' "Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew?' "Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me." "What have you done?" "Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world, if My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.'" "Pilate therefore said to Him, 'Are you a King then?' "Jesus answered, 'You say rightly that I am a king.'" "For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I

should bear witness to the truth." "Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." "Pilate said, "What is truth." You see from this that people do not know the truth by nature. They do not know the truth unless someone proclaims to them the truth of the Bible. People, just like Pilate, need to be told the straightforward truth of the Bible. This is one of the reasons that Jesus died. Isaiah 53: 8 says, "He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation?" "For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of My people He was stricken." "And they made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth." I would say to you, that it is on the basis of Jesus' having no guile (no deceit) in His holy mouth, that you and I, by His grace are able to do the same. Oh, we will not be perfect in it, but Christ's grace will help us to speak what is true and right to His glory at the right time, by His grace. I want to give you the example, once again, of John Huss, in the way that he spoke and the way that he died. But in doing so, I also want to give you my final point.

3rdly - I want to speak to you of the importance of believing in God's help to enable us to be without guile when we are tested. (Taken from *Historical Accounts of Revival* by John Gillies, Page 26 and 27)

"John Huss, while he was a student at the University of Prague, met with Wickliffe's books from whence he first got light and courage to profess the truth." "In the year 1400, he was chosen pastor of a church, and in 1409, rector of the university." "He continued in the exercise of his ministry with great zeal, diligence, and faithfulness, for the space of twelve years, instructing the people out of the Holy Scriptures, and living an exemplary life." "He vigorously opposed the Pope's proceedings, for which he was cited to Rome, to answer to such articles as should be laid against him." Farther down the page we find – "When Mr. Huss came to Constance, he was cited to appear before some cardinals, to give an account of his doctrine; but he told them that he came to do it before all the council; yet if they would force him to do it before them, he doubted not, but Christ would strengthen him to chose death for His glory's sake, rather than to deny the Holy Scriptures." "After examination, they committed him to a filthy prison, where, by reason of the stink, he fell sick, and his life was in danger." "In the meantime, his adversaries preferred articles against him, wherein they had forged many things of their own heads, wresting and perverting his godly and orthodox sayings to a bad sense., that they might have whereof to accuse him; and thereupon desired of the council, that he might be condemned." And little further down the page – "They who were appointed for his judges, in his absence heard his enemies, examined witnesses against him, judged his doctrine, not by the true touchstone of God's Word, but by the Popish canons." "When he saw the cruelty of his judges, the malice of his accusers, the falsehood of his witnesses, and the rage of all the council against him, breathing forth nothing but fire and faggots, he kneeled down , and commended his righteous cause to the Lord Jesus Christ, begging forgiveness for his enemies; yet he earnestly requested the council, even with tears, that they would convince him of any error by

the Word of God, and he would willingly retract it." "But nothing prevailed; for they proceeded to condemn him and to degrade him; whereupon, kneeling down, he said, 'Lord Jesus Christ, forgive my enemies, by whom thou knowest that I am falsely accused; forgive them, I say, for thy great mercy's sake.'" "When he was brought forth to be burned, they put on his head a triple crown of paper, painted over with ugly devils; but, when he saw it, he said, 'My Lord Jesus Christ, for my sake, did wear a crown of thorns; why should not I, then, for his sake, wear this light crown, be it ever so ignominious?' "Truly I will do it, and that willingly." "When it was set on his head, the bishops said, now we commit thy soul to the devil." "But I," said John Huss, (lifting up his eyes towards heaven) do commit my spirit into Thy hands, O Lord Jesus Christ!" "Unto Thee I commend my spirit, which Thou hast redeemed." This I say, is how we endure sufferings for Christ's truth and His kingdom. John Huss thought of what Christ endured for him, and his sufferings for him. We should do the same, if we are ever called upon to suffer. We forgive our enemies, and we pray to have no deceit in our mouth. And we will rest in God's judgment concerning all these things, knowing that in holding fast to the truth of the Scriptures we will be without fault before the throne.