

Date: 23.05.2020

Time: 7.30pm

Prayer Meeting taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Psalm: Psalm 47 (Scottish Psalter)

Scripture: Revelation 14

Outline: Three things about Christ

a) Introduction

1. Christ's description

2. Christ's people

3. Christ's warning

Three things about Christ

- **Introduction**

John goes back to what was shared previously, but gives more information on the 144,000 and their conduct. The 144,000 is a picture of the church, of the whole people of God. This is not just a future event – it has elements of what has happened, what is happening and what's still to happen. This is not written to provide us with a timeline of the second coming, but to assure us that God is the God of history, Jesus is victorious and His people are safe because of Him.

1) Christ's description

He is the Lamb: We're provided with the description of the Lamb in verses 1 and 10. This is the Lamb of God prophesied who would take away the sins of His people. This is the Redeemer. This is the Lamb who is our Saviour, who drank God's wrath so that we don't have to.

We're provided with a striking picture of the Lamb in verse 10 who looks at the suffering of His enemies. Verses 9 to 11 provide a picture of divine judgement, eternal death and Hell. The picture is a powerful reminder that today is the day of salvation. To those who refuse to repent, there will be eternal suffering – they will die as Jesus' enemies. Then the Saviour will not save as the salvation offered was refused. If you stand before Him without forgiveness, there will be no mercy – the Lamb will on that day be the lion defeating his enemies.

Today you're on mercy's ground. Don't wait for tomorrow.

He is like the Son of Man: Daniel 7 provides a picture of the Son of Man; this is the glorious Jesus who was prophesied. This is the King, Lord and Judge. The picture points us to the victorious,

glorious Christ who is king and judge of all the earth. He has done all that's right and there will be no more waiting for Him.

We all like the idea of a merciful Christ who is our brother, friend and substitute. But there's another side of Christ – he is the glorious Christ, the righteous One. We tremble before this Messiah. He will not be mocked forever. Don't continue in unbelief, resisting Christ. Take His Word seriously. Ask for mercy when it can be found.

2) Christ's people

They are with Jesus: The world is with the devil, but Christ's people are with the Lamb. This is literal for Christians who have died, who enjoy His care and company in Heaven. He is with us now. Christians don't just know about Him, Jesus is with us and He lives in us. The triune God is with and within believers. This means that we have fellowship with God today. We have a foretaste of the promise today, but in Heaven, we will be with Him fully. We might not seek Him – He might feel far away – but He has promised never to leave us or forsake us.

They have the Father's name: The world has the mark of the beast, but Christ's people have the name of the Father written on them – this means we belong to Him. We're His people. We'll share the glory of God. Where He is, we're going to be. We are His children, adopted into God's family and that's why the beast's soldiers fight against us, because we belong to another kingdom – to the kingdom of God.

They worship: We see a picture of a big crowd singing joyfully and energetically to God. The Christian has received so much from God and responds with worship and adoration. The Christian is a worshipper.

They follow Jesus: There is a saying, "the question is not is he believing, but is he following". As Christ's followers, we go wherever He goes. Our desire to follow Him is imperfect, but it's because of our affection for the Lamb that we follow Him.

They are redeemed: Verse 4 tells us that Christ's people are redeemed. To be redeemed is more than being saved; the price has been paid for our deliverance. We've been bought at a price, not with silver or gold, but with Jesus' blood. We're not just delivered from, but bought for. We've been bought for God. You don't belong to your old master. You are redeemed.

They are blameless: What a description of Christ's people that they're described as having no lie in them; they are blameless. This is true of you in Christ – you are blameless before God. He finds no fault in you. This feels too good to be true because we're so fed up of ourselves. We were bought and redeemed by Christ and so God sees us as blameless – no wonder the 144,000 worship God in amazement at what He has done! We are so aware of our sins and failings, but we are blameless before God. The more we grasp the goodness of God and His grace, the better worshippers we will be. The devil wants us to doubt this as if we do, we can be very busy, but we will be useless.

3) Christ's warning

There are two warnings given; one to the world and one to Christ's people.

Warning to the world: the world without Jesus is lost; enemies of God who need to repent. The gospel is God's warning to sinners, telling them about their sin and the solution. You need the grace and forgiveness available in Christ and then you'll be saved – you will become a child of God. If you don't receive this, you will be defeated by this same Jesus.

Warning to Christ's people: a warning is given that you will have tribulation in this world. We are in a war that is not over yet. Don't be tempted to go with another army. Don't go back to your old master. You must endure. Only those who keep going will be saved.

The warnings given are clear. Repent and be saved or be lost. It is not difficult to understand, but it is difficult to accept. The theology is not difficult, but our hearts get in the way. Understanding what Jesus wants from us is not difficult, but surrendering to Him is difficult. If we're willing to surrender to Christ, this is by God's power.

The message we have is challenging. We don't like the idea of anyone we love being lost. This is a divine challenge – God is calling you. You can accept Christ, or reject Him. What you decide will have eternal consequences; accept Him and experience eternal joy and beauty in eternity or reject Him and have a terrible eternity. God is begging sinners to accept Christ.