**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Gain and Celebrate Victory |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Revelation 15 - 16 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2355 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. There is coming a great day of victory - when the Lord Jesus Christ comes again.
	2. These chapters in the book of the Revelation show us three principles about victory:
		1. How to gain the victory.
		2. How to celebrate the victory.
2. VICTORY STANDS ON THE RELIANT WORD OF GOD (Revelation 15:1-2)
	1. The antichrist will regiment everyone and everything during The Great Tribulation.
		1. We see evidences of this capability in society today with biometric identifiers such as fingerprint and eye scanners.
	2. Those in Heaven during this time are praising God because they have received victory over the beast, the mark and the image.
		1. Revelation 15:2
			1. The “sea of glass” refers to a great basin or laver in Solomon’s temple called a “sea.”
				1. 1 Kings 7:23
			2. This laver or basin symbolized the Word of God.
				1. Before the priest would go into the temple or tabernacle to worship, he would first wash in this laver.
				2. This symbolizes the Word of God that cleanses from all sin.

Ephesians 5:26

The Word of God is the fulfillment of this symbolism in the Old Testament.

* + 1. During the time in 1 Kings, the priests washed in the basin; but during this time in Revelation, the saints do not wash in it.
			1. The sea has crystalized, and they stand upon it.
			2. Revelation 4:6
				1. It is called the Crystal Sea and is before the throne.
				2. The saints who have come out of The Great Tribulation, perhaps many of them martyred, are standing on the Word of God.
				3. The Crystal Sea symbolizes God’s Word.
	1. We will live in victory as we learn to stand upon the solid Word of God.
	2. God gave Joshua a formula for victory when he was going into Canaan.
		1. Joshua 1:8
		2. The Word of God is to be in our mouths if we want to live in victory in our neighborhoods, our schools, our businesses, and in our lives.
	3. Ephesians 4:29
	4. We are to speak the Word of God; it is to be in our mouths.
		1. The Word of God should not just be in our heads, but we are to verbalize it and learn to quote it.
		2. When we verbalize the Word of God, we vitalize it.
			1. John Bunyan, who wrote *Pilgrim’s Progress*, was converted when he overheard a conversation between women about the Word of God and was convicted.
			2. If someone were to eavesdrop on your conversation, would it lead them to Christ?
	5. The Word of God is to be in our minds; we are to meditate on the Word of God.
		1. Joshua 1:8
		2. Meditation is like a song that we cannot get out of our minds, and we find ourselves humming the tune over and over again.
		3. When we meditate on God’s Word, we are thinking God’s thoughts.
	6. We are to obey the Word of God.
		1. Joshua 1:8
		2. It is obeying the Word of God that begins to make the Bible burst aflame.
		3. John 14:21
		4. Reading the Bible gives us knowledge about God; obeying the Bible gives us knowledge of God.
			1. God becomes real to us when we obey Him.
	7. To gain and celebrate victory, we must plant our feet firmly upon the Word of God.
		1. In this generation, we both wash in it and stand on it.
		2. In Heaven, we won’t need to wash anymore because we will be made perfectly whole.
		3. But we will forever stand upon the Word of God.
1. VICTORY SINGS OF THE REDEEMING WORKS OF GOD (Revelation 15:3-4)
	1. Victory’s song is not singing what we have done, but it is seeing and singing the works of Almighty God.
		1. These are works of redemption: the song of Moses and the Lamb.
			1. The song of Moses is the first recorded song in the Bible.
				1. Exodus 15:1-19
				2. It is the song the children of Israel sang as they came through the Red Sea.

The children of Israel did not sing in Egypt; they groaned in Egypt.

God brought them out and redeemed them by the blood of the Passover Lamb.

They came through the Red Sea and now sing a song of redemption.

* + - 1. The song of the Lamb is the last recorded song in the Bible.
				1. Both of these songs are songs of redemption.
	1. Only the redeemed can truly sing.
	2. The way we celebrate the Lord Jesus is to sing of His works.
		1. If you have been redeemed, you are to praise the Lord.
			1. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.
		2. It is praise to God that precedes and follows every victory.
		3. If we do not praise, then we are not going to have victory.
			1. We will praise Him in Heaven.
			2. When Israel came into the Promised Land, they decided that the tribe of Judah would go in first because Judah means “praise.”
	3. We are to sing in the face of problems.
		1. Acts 16:22-26
			1. Paul and Silas, who had been arrested and thrown into a Philippian jail for preaching the Gospel, sang praises to God.
				1. When Paul and Silas began to sing and praise God, that’s when God sent the earthquake to free them.

Evangelism is as much caught as it is taught.

When others see us praising the Lord, they know that we believe what we preach.

Like the Philippian jailer, they soon will believe it, too.

1. VICTORY CELEBRATES THE WRATH OF GOD (Revelation 15:4-8)
	1. We celebrate victory by knowing that not one sin will ever go unpunished.
		1. Our sin will be punished.
		2. The only question is who will bear that punishment?
			1. Our sin will either be pardoned in Christ or punished in Hell, but it will not be overlooked.
				1. All sin is dealt with.
	2. Revelation 15:6
		1. Seven angels come from the temple to judge.
			1. It is a righteous judgment.
				1. They are wearing white robes.
			2. It is a sovereign judgment.
				1. They have on golden girdles which represent the priests and the King.
			3. It is a solemn judgment.
				1. They have bowls of wrath.
			4. It is a sure judgment.
				1. The Bible says that no man could enter into the temple until the seven plagues are fulfilled.
		2. The temple is filled with smoke, which speaks of the judgment of God consuming the sacrifice.
	3. God begins to pour out His wrath upon the world with these seven bowls of wrath.
		1. Contagious sores.
			1. Revelation 16:1-2
			2. The mark of the beast turns into a cankerous, contagious sore that is incurable.
		2. Contaminated seas
			1. Revelation 16:3
			2. The sea becomes, not blood, but as blood.
		3. Corrupted streams
			1. Revelation 16:4-7
			2. God does not forget the slaying of His saints.
				1. God is on His throne.
			3. The same Jesus who turned water into wine will turn water into blood according to this passage.
		4. Consuming sun
			1. Revelation 16:8-9
			2. When the Lord Jesus was crucified, the sun hid its face and refused to shine; but when Jesus Christ is manifest in all His glory, there will be erupting flames of fire and judgment.
			3. The heat will be intense.
				1. Instead of causing people to repent, it will cause them to blaspheme God.

If the love of God does not bring you to repentance, then the judgment of God will not bring you to repentance.

* + 1. Confounded sinners
			1. Revelation 16:10-11
				1. There will be a crescendo of hurt that will culminate into a crescendo of hate, as they hate God.
			2. The darkness referred to in this passage does not speak necessarily of physical darkness but of moral and spiritual darkness that will engulf the world.
		2. Controlling spirits
			1. Revelation 16:12-16
				1. The dragon, the beast and the false prophet are the unholy trinity who will be working here on Earth during The Great Tribulation.
				2. These unclean spirits are demons.

There is one devil and many demons working “miracles;” demon powers have miracle power.

* + - 1. These demon spirits that are already working in the world are drawing the nations to the final decisive battle of mankind: The Battle of Armageddon.
				1. Spirits of demons are working in the hearts and minds of the world’s national leaders.
		1. Cataclysmic shaking
			1. Revelation 16:17-21
				1. “It is finished.”

Jesus spoke these words from the cross when redemption was completed.

Now, retribution will be completed.

* + - 1. The greatest of all earthquakes will take place.
				1. Revelation 16:18-19

There can be no ultimate victory apart from the wrath of God and the righteous judgment of God.

Sin must be dealt with.

* + - * 1. Revelation 16:20-21

A talent was about all the weight that a man could carry.

Hail stones weighing hundreds of pounds will fall upon men during this period of time.

1. CONCLUSION
	1. As Christians, we have victory.
		1. Our victory comes from three things:
			1. The Word of God.
			2. The redeeming works of God.
			3. The ensuing wrath of God.
	2. There are three cups we need to be mindful of:
		1. Revelation 16 speaks of people drinking from the cup of God’s wrath.
		2. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus drank the bitter cup of the sin of mankind that He took upon Himself and carried to the cross.
		3. The cup of salvation.
			1. Psalm 116:13
			2. Because Jesus drank the bitter cup, we can drink this cup of salvation.
	3. If you do not drink the cup of salvation, then you will drink the cup of God’s wrath.
		1. God never overlooks sin.
		2. Your sin will either be pardoned in Christ, or it will be punished in Hell.
	4. You can have victory today by saying “Yes” to the Lord Jesus Christ and trusting in Him.
	5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16