

## **Father's Day in Tribulation**

Revelation 15

(preached Pine Grove 6/18/17; Sunday AM)

### **Introduction**

Since it was the week leading up to Father's Day, the internet was filled with articles about fathers...

One especially caught my eye due to it's title....

What one word would you want your kids to use to describe you as a dad?

I think that is an interesting thought...

Now it wasn't a Christian website, so I didn't expect anything related like the word "Christian" or "believer", but I was interested in what characteristics the world values in a father...

So, listen to this top list of one word descriptions of a great dad...

1. Dependable - certainly a good quality in a father is a man who keeps his word as much as possible
2. Involved - again, good fathers are present in the lives of their kids and plugged in

3. Compassionate - I think we see another biblical quality here as fathers are compassionate toward their children

4. Worker - Clearly, this is a biblical command to provide for your family, so a man who works for his family is a good thing.

5. Playful - Not so much a biblical idea, but interacting with your children on their level is always good

6. Loving - Fathers should love their families, starting with the wife and then the children

7. Protective - Dads are certainly called to protect their families in a very dangerous world..

And then we get to the last on the list, and the final one word that describes a great dad is...

8. Honest

It should go without saying that good dads are honest dads...

They are men of truth...

No family wants a dishonest dad...

Dishonesty ruins a father and the family around him...

But the question always comes...

How much truth do kids need in regards to evil, violence, divorce, sickness, death and disease?

And much of that is up to you and the development of your children, but the bottom line is that good fathers tell the truth to their children....

With that said, what is the most important truth that your father shared with you?

My grandfather told me over and over the value of avoiding peer pressure and always in his words, "making up your own mind."

My father taught me the importance of always being on time...

And as you fathers and grandfathers think today about your relationship to your children, what is the most important truth that you can share with your children?

What is the best piece of wisdom that you can share with your sons and daughters?

My hope is that each of your fathers this morning are not first thinking of a good work ethic, how to save money, the value of a good education....

Even though all those things are good things, my hope is that the first thing that came to your mind was the need to share the truth of the gospel with your children...

You see good fathers are not just about helping your children be good citizens on earth....

Good fathers are those who help their children see the value of being a citizen of heaven...

Though there is nothing wrong with fathers wanting their kids to be upstanding men and women....

None of that compares to wanting their kids to be saved men and women....

For years, we have spent more time on manners and not enough time teaching our kids about the Messiah....

You see the greatest truth that fathers need to share with their children is the truth of the saving power of the gospel of Jesus Christ...

And that truth is not just taking your kids to church and hoping others will teach them the gospel...

Teaching them that truth is not putting that job on your wife while you attend to other things...

Teaching them that truth is not you telling them to go see the pastor when they want to know more about Christ...

Fathers, teaching your kids the truth about the gospel is you first believing that truth yourself, you modeling what it means to live by that truth, and you opening your Bible and leading your kids in the reading and studying the Word to them..

It amazes me how fathers will spend hours under a hood teaching about a car, hours on a field teaching their kids how to hit and throw and catch, but never spend minutes in the word with their children...

Look, knowing how to work on a car is great, sports are beneficial, but none of that information saves your children from sin...

Only the gospel can do that, yet it seems that fathers never spend time talking about modeling it to their children...

With that said, what truths do your children need to know about the gospel?

For many, a look at the gospel is simply them telling their kids to ask Jesus in their heart...

But the gospel is so much more than that...

And the main the gospel is more than that is because most kids and teens and even adults have no idea why they need to ask Jesus into their heart...

Most kids and teens and adults have no desire to be saved because they see no danger to be saved from...

It is like throwing a life raft to a person who is floating around on a boat in the ocean...

They see no need to grab hold of a life preserver unless they know that they are on a boat that is slowly sinking...

And the reason that kids see no need for salvation is because no one talks about sin, hell, and judgment anymore...

We live in a society that has long ago shied away from those words...

We have replaced sin, hell, and judgment with words that make us feel better like acceptance, tolerance, and self esteem...

It first happened in the pulpits of the world, and because of that, those words have all but disappeared from the family discussions...

Families and fathers would rather talk about the ballgame and school and friends....

In fact, families and fathers would rather talk about anything that sin, hell, and judgment...

You see sin, hell and judgment aren't the first things that come to your mind when you consider the top 10 truths that you should share with your children...

But they should be, and you know why?

The Bible speaks of them very often...

And the reason it speaks of them is because God is a loving Father Himself...

And he speaks of them as a way to warn His children...

You see, the heavenly Father and the fathers of the world have a desire to protect their children....

Many of you would lay down your life for your kids, but their greatest enemy isn't the evil of their world, it is the evil one who wants their souls...

And a gun, a sword, extra locks on the doors won't protect them from him...

Only the gospel can do that, and if you aren't sharing the truths of the gospel with them, you are essentially leaving them on the railroad tracks all alone with the train right around the corner...

And so this morning, we continue our look at Revelation, and once again, we find the heavenly Father warning His children of what is coming...

And it isn't your best your life now, it is coming judgment over the sin of rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ....

And you men who sit here as fathers today or as grandfathers today or even as men without kids, you need to hear the warning...

And you need to first make sure you have protected yourself from what is coming, but then you must make sure that everyone around you here's this truth too...

So with that, lets take a quick look at the shortest chapter in the book of Revelation, and that is chapter 15...

I have divided this into the 3 truths that you fathers need to believe, embrace and then share with the next generation...

And we will begin in verse 1 of Revelation 15 with this truth....



## **I. God Will Pour Out His Wrath on Unbelief (15:1)**

Verse 1...

***Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.***

Since last October, we have been in the book of Revelation, and the majority of our time since beginning the book has been spent looking at the judgments of God...

Now, let me be clear, God is always judging...

God has handed down judgments ever since sin entered the world in the garden of Eden...

He passed out judgments in the form of curses on Adam and Eve...

And that has never stopped since that day...

You see, sin deserves judgment....

God is holy, sin makes people unholy and guilty before God, so judgments must come is God is perfectly just...

Therefore, God has been in the judgment business for centuries...

Sometimes, he judges individuals and sometimes he judges nations...

And God is perfectly fine to judge...

He is the Creator of all, and he rightly judges all...

And God's judgments on the earth come down all the time...

The worst type of judgment is the judgment of death, where people who die in rejection of the gospel go to hell away from God waiting a final judgment of a lake to come....

And as we come to the book of Revelation, we find ourselves in the final 7 years leading up to the 2nd coming of Christ, and God's judgments and wrath are being poured out like never before...

Now, don't let all this talk of judgments and wrath harden your heart toward God...

First, God has the authority to judge...

Second, people who reject Christ deserve judgment...

But third, God is still saving in the midst of all these judgments that have been coming down in these final 7 years...

You see, even in God's wrath, he remembers mercy and he will save many in these final 7 years...

WE have see that over and over in the book of Revelation, but in verse 1 of chapter 15, God is preparing to finish with all his judgments of the tribulation period...

I think we are months if not weeks away from the end of time and the return of Christ, so there is one final outpouring of wrath that must take place...

We seen what are called the 7 seal judgments that began the outpouring of wrath...

WE have seen the 7 trumpet judgments that continued this outpouring of wrath, and not we find ourselves at the final set of 7 judgments known as the bowl judgments...

And chapter 15 is simply the chapter that introduces these final 7 bowls of wrath which will be poured out on the earth to end the 7 year tribulation period...

And John simply gives us an introduction to this final outpouring of wrath in verse 1 as he sees a sign in heaven...

Which is simply 7 angels holding 7 plagues...

And John lets us know that these are the last plagues that will finish up the wrath of God...

You see, God has set a time for unleashing the greatest wrath that the world has ever seen...

And that time is for the end of the final 7 years of the tribulation period...

And that wrath and judgment is going to be seen in 7 bowls that will be poured out on the earth on the hardest of the rejectors of the gospel of Christ...

And let me simply say here to you fathers, to you mothers, to anyone sitting in front of me today...

That there is coming a day of wrath for all who reject Jesus Christ...

WE learned last week that 150,000 people die each day, and many of them that die today will experience that wrath of God today...

For others who live at the end of time, they will also experience the wrath of God in these series of judgments that will come to the earth....

You see, everyone must know that God's wrath is real and it will be poured out on all who refuse to believe the gospel....

That is not a truth that you need to shield your children from fathers...

It is a truth that you must tell them early and often...

It is a truth that you must believe as well and have acted upon...

It is a truth that is disappearing from churches and homes, but make sure it doesn't disappear from your home...

If you think it sounds like a scary truth, good...

It is a scary truth, and that is all the more reason to share it with our sons and daughters...

Look it is a scary truth that evil people live in the world who like to hurt children, but we begin to tell our kids about those people from a young age...

And though it is horrible to fall into the hands of an evil person, it is much worse to fall into the hands of God apart from the gospel of Jesus Christ....

On this Father's Day, commit to being honest with your children and yourself about the coming wrath of the Lord for all those who refuse to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ...

But once you get that truth out to them, follow it with this important truth found in verses 2-4...

## **II. God Will Protect Those Who Believe the Gospel** **(15:2-4)**

Let's read verses 2-3 of Revelation 15...

***2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious [a]over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.***  
***3 And they \*sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,...***

Let me stop right there for just a minute...

As soon as John sees the 7 angels with the 7 plagues, his eyes see something else in verse 2...

He sees a sea of glass mixed with fire....

We have seen this sea of glass before which sits before the throne of God...

Now, this time, fire is mixed with that sea of glass...

Fire is a symbol of judgment in the Scriptures...

Which fits perfectly in this section of final judgment that is about to be sent to the world...

And so we are in heaven before the throne of God and what does John see here?

Well he sees people...

That he describes as being victorious over the beast and the image and the number of his name...

And this group of people are gathered on the sea holding harps and singing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb...

Now, before we hear their song...

What is the picture here?

Well, wrath is about to be poured out on the earth, but the people in heaven are safe and singing...

You know I have always had a fascination and fear of weather...

And I have always wanted a storm shelter...

Just to have this place where I could go and be safe in the storm...

I always said if I had one and a tornado watch or warning was issued, I would head down in it and go to sleep...



To me, that is the point of a shelter...

It should be so safe that you are relaxed enough to go to sleep even though the storm is just a few minutes away..

You see the gospel of Christ is that kind of shelter...

While God prepares to unleash his wrath on the world, those safe in heaven are so comfortable that they can sing while the wrath is just a few minutes away...

Now, what are these saved saints singing...

Well, verse 3 says they are singing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb...

The song of Moses is best seen as the song that Israel sung after they fled from Egypt and escaped the attacks of Pharaoh and his army...

The song of the Lamb is the song that was sung earlier in the book of Revelation in chapter 5 where the redeemed in heaven sing of the deliverance from sin that same with the death of Christ....

Now the people here in chapter 15 take the theme of those songs and sing a new song of deliverance that begins in the middle of verse 3...

***“Great and marvelous are Your works,  
O Lord God, the Almighty;  
Righteous and true are Your ways,  
King of the [b]nations!***

***4***

***“Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?  
For You alone are holy;  
For all the nations will come and worship before You,  
For Your [c]righteous acts have been revealed.”***

You see, the protection of the saints from the wrath that is about to be poured out causes them to sing...

And they praise God in their song for his works, which are great and marvelous...

And for his ways, which are righteous and true...

You see, the judgment of God upon unbelievers is not that something that God's people should be ashamed of...

It is not a subject to avoid but a subject to share and celebrate...

When God pours out wrath, it is a time of celebration...

God has won and evil people have been defeated...

And the song continues to worship God's holiness in verse 4, while calling people to worship God due to his coming judgment...

You see, while you teach other about the coming wrath of God, you follow that with this incredible truth...

That there is a storm shelter from that wrath...

That there is a Christ who shields those who trust in Him...

That there is a Christ who provides safety from the wrath that is coming because HE himself has taken on God's wrath in the cross...

You see the cross is an act of love but also a place of justice...

God's love is seen in offering up his Son, but God's justice is seen in the Son taking on the wrath of the Father...

You see, Jesus experienced a tribulation period so those who call upon Him wouldn't have to...

You see, Jesus took on the wrath of God so that all who believe in him would be safe for the wrath that God must pour on on sin...

The gospel is not just ask Jesus into your heart...

The gospel is you are a sinner who deserves wrath and judgment, but God in his mercy has provided His Son as substitute who absorbed that wrath and judgment on behalf of all who will trust in Him...

That is a truth that you must believe in order to be saved...

That is a truth that you must embrace as a believer...

That is a truth that you must take as fathers and give to your kids...

Stop hoping your kids will wake up one day and just magically want to get saved...

And start telling them of coming judgment and urging them to find salvation in Christ alone to save them..

One more truth to see here in Revelation 15 this morning and it is found in verse 5-8...

### **III. God's Judgment is Glorious (15:5-8)**

In verse 5, John gets a third glimpse at something in chapter 15...

He has seen the 7 angels with the 7 plagues..

He has seen the saved singing a song of deliverance and praise...

Now, he sees something else...

Verse 5...

*5 After these things I looked, and the [d]temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, 6 and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the [e]temple, clothed in [f]linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes.*

*7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. 8 And the [g]temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the [h]temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.*

The scene has moved from 7 angels with 7 plagues to 7 angels being given containers for their plagues...

So one the 4 living creatures around the throne of God in heaven provides 7 bowls to hold the 7 plagues, and the idea is that these bowls will allow the judgments to be poured out in rapid fashion..

You all know the difference between pouring from a pitcher or a bowl...

The pitcher slows the flow, but the bowl is more of a dumping out and that is what these final 7 judgments of wrath will be...

They will be a pouring out of God's fury on the remaining people on the earth...

The only thing worse than hell on earth is having the wrath of the God of heaven unleashed on the earth....

But that is exactly what will happen in these final moments of the earths existence...

And look how John describes God in the midst of this wrath being prepared for earth...

Verse 8..

And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God...

You see, as I have said before....

God is glorified in judgment...

Listen to me church, there is no shame in the judgments that God will unleash on the earth...

I am saddened by Christians who want to stop talking about the judgment of God..

I am saddened by pulpits that never preach the judgments of God...

Look, we need to be compassionate to unbelievers....

WE need to love them, pray for them, but we must share the coming judgment of God with them...

Do not be embarrassed by a God who judges the world...

That is his right as Creator of the world as as Creator of the people in it...

God is perfectly holy and we are perfectly sinful...

We deserve judgment, so God is only right to send judgment to all who have rejected his mercy in the gospel...

Look, we all understand this from a human level...

Once you offer someone the last piece of pie, they can't be upset when you pick it up and eat it....

The offer is good but if it rejected, the offer goes away...

God is so slow to anger an wrath, but He would cease to be God if he didn't bring judgment....

And so we celebrate the judgment of God because in it He keeps his promise, and he keeps his people safe...



## **Conclusion**

Now, I understand that is not the typical Father's Day message preached in most churches today...

Many men went to church this morning and got 5 ways to be a godly father....

And that is all well and fine...

Nothing wrong with those sermons at all...

But I want you fathers, mothers, men, and women and boys and girls to understand that being a godly father is good but you better be a truthful father as well...

And the greatest truth a father needs to share is the truth of the gospel with his friends, his neighbors, his spouse, his kids....

The model of a loving Father is seen in the book of Revelation as God warns us all that wrath is coming unless we find ourselves in Christ through repentance and faith in Him...

But let me also say this morning that you can never be the Father you need to be unless the Heavenly Father has your heart...

Charles Spurgeon was once asked about Proverbs 22:6 which reads, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

The person wanted to know if that was the best piece of advice for fathers raising their children...

Surgeon answered, “Well, that is the hope of all parents, but I would add this...”

“Train up a child in the way he should go, -but be sure that you go that way yourself.”

I would say to you this Father’s Day 2017 that the best two things you can be today is first of all....

Be a saved Father who has repented of your sins and trusted Christ...

And then be a truthful father by teaching above all else the truths of coming judgment and a Savior who saves us from the coming judgment...

If you get those two things right, you will go to heaven a successful father in the ways that truly count...

Let us pray.

