



GENESIS

BOOKENDS

REVELATION

THE CHURCH MILITANT AND TRIUMPHANT

REVELATION 7

SYNOPSIS

Revelation 7 pulls back the curtain to reveal the identity and destiny of God's people. In this sermon, we see the Church Militant, believers on earth engaged in real spiritual warfare, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and called to resist sin, Satan, and the world. We also behold the Church Triumphant, a countless multitude from every nation, now in the presence of Christ, free from suffering and clothed in His righteousness. Their victory is not earned, but secured through the blood of the Lamb. This message calls us to live faithfully in the battle, confident that glory awaits all who belong to Christ.

SERMON OUTLINE

Main Idea: *The Church is marked for battle and secured for glory!*

1. **The Church Militant (verses 1-8):** The term "militant" simply signifies that the Church so long as it survives on this earth is engaged in ongoing spiritual warfare against the dreaded three-headed monster of sin, Satan, and the world.
 - a. Who are they?
 - b. What is the seal?
2. **The Church Triumphant (verses 9-17):** The Church triumphant is how we describe every saint that currently lives in heaven who has already passed through the time in the Church Militant and are now basking in the peace of the presence of Christ.
 - a. Who are they?
 - b. How did they get there?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Special Leader's Note: *Please remember that we are getting into heavily debated passages of scripture. Some will likely disagree with Pastor Raef's choice of interpretation on various symbols in this and coming chapters. That is okay! But be careful to not let the group discussion become a debate on symbol interpretation. Get to the practical heart level discussions around the principles of the text.*

GROUP REFLECTION & APPLICATION

1. **Observing the Text:** First, make sure to have your group spend time looking at the text, and observing the text without reflecting on the sermon. You want the group to get familiar with the text, and the words, and the flow of thought. Keep making observations until you feel the group has a solid grasp of the entire text.
2. **Church Militant:** Though the phrase "Church Militant" has been common language used by the Church through many generations of Christianity, in today's world the phrase has fallen a bit out of favor, and can often have quite a few negative connotations. When you hear the phrase (and understand its meaning), how does it challenge your everyday thoughts or expectations about the Church.
3. **Church Comfortable:** We discussed that many today practically do not live as though they are the "church militant" but rather live as though they are the "church comfortable" or as others have called it the "church asleep." One author highlighted a number of signs that the American Church is largely "asleep" at the moment. Read these signs together as a group and discuss which ones you personally feel most conviction about, and why you think many churches may have truly fallen "asleep."
 - a. The absence of conviction of sin
 - b. A lack of the fear of God
 - c. Little sense of outrage over the godlessness of society
 - d. Watching pornography and feeling justified
 - e. Avarice, greed and lack of financial integrity
 - f. No sense of outrage over the Church's lack of credibility in the world
 - g. Little or no concern about people going to hell
 - h. Little concern about the lack of knowledge of God's word
 - i. Indifference to the biblical view of marriage
 - j. Indifference to holding grudges and unforgiveness
 - k. Indifference to talking to people about Christ
 - l. Tolerating heresies such as open theism and hyper-grace teaching
 - m. Indifference to the teaching that the Bible is infallible
 - n. Indifference to how much time is spent in prayer and quiet time

4. **Global Mindedness:** The sermon discussed the fact that God’s heart is for the nations, and therefore should also be for the nations to know Christ. If you have had experience in missions (whether short or long term), share that experience with your group. What did you do? Where did you go? What was the experience like? And how did that experience shape your heart for Christ and his heart for the nations?

5. **No Neutrality:** This passage says that the Lord’s saints are marked on their foreheads with the seal of the living God. Later in Revelation, we see that those who belong to “the beast” (the enemies of Christ) are also marked with their own seal on their foreheads. In short, there is no neutral. Everybody is marked in one way or the other.
 - a. Where in your life are you tempted to live as if neutrality is possible?
 - b. How can we help or encourage each other to live more clearly marked lives for Christ?