



college park church

SUNDAY MORNING

SERMON GUIDE

HOW TO BE THANKFUL: PEEKING INTO CHRISTMAS FUTURE

REVELATION 7:9-17

NOVEMBER 30, 2014

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to believe:

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some next steps to walk in this truth this week. Don't feel constrained to these but feel free to use them.

- Consider how God would have you share this good news of what Jesus has done and will do with family and friends this Thanksgiving.
- Read slowly through Revelation 4 & 5. Meditate on the greatness of our Creator and Redeemer.
- Study the passages in the "FOR FURTHER STUDY" section this week to see these truths other places in the Bible.

APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

1. How would you summarize the main idea of 7:9–17?

2. **What are some of the biggest challenges to your perseverance in the faith? One of the primary purposes of the book of Revelation is to foster perseverance in suffering Christians. How does the picture in Revelation 7 help cultivate perseverance in your own life?**

3. Why is having Jesus at the center of your life essential to a thankful life? What else competes with Jesus for the center of your life?

4. How do our weekly worship gatherings foreshadow what's happening in Rev. 7:9–12? How does remembering that truth change the way you approach Sunday mornings?

5. **This sermon was like a bridge from Thanksgiving to Advent, helping us look back with thanksgiving and look ahead with longing. When you use this passage to look back, what are some aspects of your salvation for which you're most thankful? When you use this passage to look ahead, what about this picture stirs up longing in your heart for Christ's return?**

6. **How does the fight of faith we've been talking about in Romans 6–7 connect to the perseverance we see in Revelation 7?**

7. The holidays can be a time where we're painfully aware of our suffering. How does Rev. 7:9–17 bring comfort and hope in the midst of your hardships?

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Confess ways you've not been grateful to God for all He's given you, and have instead grumbled.
- Thank God for the blood of the Lamb that washes us clean from all our sins!
- Ask God to help you persevere in faith, even amidst trials and suffering.
- Ask God to make you truly grateful for his great salvation, and to create in you a hope-filled longing for the day we gather with all the redeemed around the throne of the Lamb.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- **General:** Rev. 5:9–10; 3:5; 22:14; Is. 49:10; 25:8–9; Ps. 23:1–2;
- **The cleansing power of Jesus' blood:** Ps. 51:7; Is. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:17–19; 1 John 1:7; Rev. 12:10–11; Heb. 9:13–14
- **What awaits "the ones who conquer" through perseverance:** Rev. 2–3
- **Thankfulness:** 1 Thess. 5:16–18; Eph. 5:20; Rom. 1:21; 6:17; 7:24–8:1; Ps. 100; 136