

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for September 5, 2021

Sermon Notes

Seven Bowls of Wrath: The Punishment Fits the Crime

Revelation 16

Perspective (per-spec-tive): a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view by which we see, consider, and understand something.

We must have God's perspective if we are going to see Revelation 16 as we should. We must see, consider, and understand sin from God's viewpoint. We must see the heinous reality of our sin against the beautiful reality of God's holy character and his amazing grace and kindness. This illustration from James Hamilton helps us with this perspective:

"God makes this pristine world where everything is good. He gives humans everything they need for life and happiness. And he gives only one command. They break it, and then start devising ways to be offensive and abominable. They start stealing and boasting and murdering and fornicating, and their thoughts are only evil all the time. Now consider that God is a just God. He is holy and righteous, and good, and he is personally offended by sin. Imagine how much sin there is in the world to offend God. We are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Look over the last seven days of your life and consider how many seconds you were doing that and how many you were not. When you were not walking by faith and loving God, you were sinning. Now multiply all your own personal sin by 7,900,000,000 people alive today, then multiply that heap of transgressions by 6,000 years." (Commentary on Revelation, p. 303)

With this perspective in mind, we should be better able to see how the wrath poured out in Revelation 16 on unrepentant rebels is punishment that fits the crime. We see that God is going to be glorified in his justice as the severity of the punishment he pours out matches the seriousness of the crimes committed against him. We see how the righteous respond with praise and the rebellious respond with cursing and blame. We see the deception of Satan and the gullibility of the unredeemed rebels. We also hear the timeless exhortation to stay alert and on guard against the lies of the enemy who seeks to lead us down the path of rebellion and certain defeat.

Rebellion against God is futile and always leads to destruction. Repentance and faith always lead to life and blessing. With God's perspective in mind, we can say with the angel, *Just are you, O Holy One....Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!" (Rev 16:5&7)*

Bowls 1-3 and response of the righteous (Rev 16: 1-7)

Bowls 4-7 and the response of the rebels (Rev 16: 8-21)

Applications: Repentance & faith while there is still time

Alertness to the enemy's deception and compassion for those deceived

Thanksgiving & praise for the gifts of grace that will become weapons of wrath

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

How has our study in Revelation challenged or even perhaps changed your perspective of reality? Of our future and our future hope? Of the gospel?

What about this study through Revelation 16 reiterates the necessity of frequently preaching the gospel to ourselves?

How should this chapter in particular help us understand the mercy and grace of God? What should be our response?

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.*

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