

Sermon Series: Reformation Sunday

Sermon Text: Revelation 1:5; 2:13; 6:9-11; 12:11-12; 20:4-6

Sermon Title: White-robed Martyrs

Christ, the Faithful Witness, is the pattern, power, vindication, and victory of His martyrs.

1) Christ is the pattern and power of His martyrs (Rev. 1:5; 2:13).

- a) Faithful Witness (Gk. *martys*) implies death in Revelation
- b) "Witness"—courtroom; witness for God/Christ against world (cf. Jn 16:8-10; 18:37; 1 Tim 6:13)
- c) Firstborn from the Dead—resurrection/vindication
- d) Ruler of Kings on earth—exaltation as ruler/judge of the world that falsely condemned Him
- e) "Antipas My faithful witness" (2:13)—mirrors title of Christ; He is our pattern
- f) "Grace to you and peace from . . ."—Christ is the source of grace empowering our faith/witness

2) Christ promises vindication to His martyrs (Rev. 6:9-11).

- a) Souls under the altar—sacrificial nature of testimony and martyrdom
- b) Prayer for Vindication:
 - i) Sovereign Lord—begins with recognition of God's plan and control
 - ii) Holy and True—confesses God's goodness and faithfulness
 - iii) How long?—expresses desire for vindication
 - (1) vindication of their testimony that Jesus is Lord and Christ
 - (2) vindication of their persons as saints belonging to God
- c) Promise of Vindication:
 - i) White Robes—God's attestation to their righteousness as His witnesses and saints (cf. 7:14)
 - ii) Rest a Little Longer—Christ is their defense, so they can rest (cf. 7:15-17)
 - iii) Complete Number of the Martyrs—sovereign plan and purpose for each martyr (cf. 8:1-5)
 - (1) Prayers of all the saints rise like incense to God (8:5a).
 - (2) Prayer of the martyrs bring judgment on earth (8:5b).
 - iv) 14:13 "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (cf. Heb. 6:10-11)

3) Christ secures the victory for His martyrs (12:7-12).

- a) War in heaven (12:7) coincides with Christ's humiliation and exaltation (12:5)
- b) The saints share in Christ's heavenly victory on earth (12:9-11).
 - i) Enlightenment/Illumination (12:9)—deceiver cast down
 - ii) Justification (12:10)—accuser cast down
 - iii) Sanctification/Mortification (12:11)—devil conquered
 - (1) by the blood of the Lamb—atonement
 - (2) by the word of their testimony—announcement of gospel
 - (3) by loving not their lives even unto death—martyrdom

4) Christ vindicates His martyrs (20:4-6).

- a) Martyrs given authority to judge/reign with Christ through inter-advent period
- b) Union/communion with the risen Christ, having suffered with Him (Rom. 8:17; Rev. 3:9)

5) The cost/reward of discipleship—the first resurrection.

Doxology: Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. (Rev. 19:6)