

**Revelation 14: 1 and 2; "The Lamb Standing on Mount Zion"; Sermon # 99
in the series - "The Faithful and True Witness", Delivered by Pastor Paul
Rendall on June 7th, 2009, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

The past few chapters of the book of Revelation have focused on the rise and establishment of the Antichristian powers and have shown us the battleground between Christ and Antichrist. It is a battle for the true worship of the living God to be established and to prevail over the hearts and minds of those who have the Bible; and in that Bible, the gospel of Jesus Christ. And in having the Biblical Christ, who is received by faith; a person has salvation and eternal life. He has all things pertaining to life and godliness. But how to worship God has become a battleground for those people who would worship Him in Truth. You say you worship Christ. Then the issue becomes; how do you worship Him? The Devil wanted to derail the gospel and the forward progress of the kingdom of Christ and so he raised up a false system to counterfeit it. Antichrist is a counterfeit Christianity; a false church; with a false head ruling over her. The Devil wants you to worship Christ by means of His vicar; the Pope. The Devil wants you to worship God and Christ by means of taking the sacraments without being converted. And supposedly then, when you go through these outward rituals faithfully, then you might be saved if you do them enough and if you submit to the authority and rule of Pope and priest who supposedly have the authority to absolve your sins. They supposedly have the authority to set you to doing your spiritual obligations of worship. They supposedly have the authority to remove the consequences of the guilt of your sins when you confess them to them. They supposedly can direct you into the true worship of God by your taking the mark of the beast which is submission to their man made authority, which directs you to observe all their traditions given by the Church Fathers. But all this is blasphemy. There is no one but God who can forgive sins. And the only mediator between God and men is the man Christ Jesus. He can set you free and you will be free indeed. And you are commanded in the Bible to come by faith directly to Him, and to live your Christian life according to the Bible. The Bible is your true authority. You should highly esteem men who stick to the Bible and teach it to you faithfully; those pastors and elders who teach you and rule over you in the church. But the basis for all that you do, and the basis for all that those who rule over you will do, as pastors and elders, is the clear teaching of the Bible that you can see and read for yourself. Submit to no man, or no system of church doctrine or rule, that you cannot have proved to your satisfaction; have derived their authority from the Bible. It is your soul that is at stake.

The true and pure and undefiled religion and worship of God has existed all the way through the 1260 years of the 3rd time period of New Testament History, but from the wording of Chapter 13, verse 5, we might wonder whether it will continue to survive at all in our day, let alone conquer, as the true Church is predicted to do. It says there concerning Antichrist, "And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months." (This is once again the same time period as the 1260 days mentioned earlier in Chapter 11: 3 and 12: 6; which needs to be understood as prophetic years instead of literal days and

months.) "Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven." "It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them." "And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation." "All those who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." So there is the battleground and every person who professes to be a Christian must choose whether he will worship according to Christ or Antichrist. We have seen that the Roman Catholic system of Church government and doctrine are the Antichrist. Their doctrines and their practices take the place of those true doctrines and true practices which are commanded of all those who truly love the Lord Jesus. All those who believe in this system recognize the Pope's authority in spiritual matters. They believe that he is the visible Head of the Church of Jesus Christ on earth, and they uphold his supposed authority to determine what is true in relation to the worship and practice of that false church. Anyone who does an in-depth study of Church History has seen that from about the year 756 A.D. on, that there has been a severe suppression of the truth of the word of God by the Roman Catholic Church. (This year of 756 A.D. was the year that the Pope began to assume temporal power and to act as though he had political authority to tell men what to do as well as spiritual authority to rule over their consciences in relation to their worship.) It is a fact of history that there were many true Christians who were persecuted and put to death by the Roman Catholic Church edicts and influence upon people in political authority; for their believing the Bible to be the word of God. True Christians however, believe that the Bible is the book of books, and it is our one true Apostolic authority for everything that we believe in doctrine and everything that we do in worship. So this afternoon I would like to open up for you how all true worship has its focus on Christ and the Father. We worship God in spirit and in truth by the power of the Spirit. And in this passage we see that it is Christ and His Church who stand together, boldly declaring the truths which are mentioned here, that will bring down the Antichristian system. The is voice of Christ speaking through His Church, and it is that voice which will eventually cause the walls of the city of New Testament Babylon to fall. For New Testament Babylon to fall, people who are deceived by Rome must hear the voice of God's true worshippers. They must hear, 1st of all - The voice of Christ's true brethren speaking of their Adoption by the Father. They must hear secondly - The voice of the sound of the preaching of Law and grace being distinguished. Third - They must hear the voice of our singing and praises to God for the gift of Christ. And fourth - They must hear the voice of our sincere spiritual purity. We will only be able to get through the first 2 of these truths this afternoon and leave the other two to next month's sermon.

First of all - For New Testament Babylon to fall, people must hear the voice of Christ's true brethren speaking of their Adoption by the Father. (Verse 1)

It is this bold declaration which comes from the throne of God, which is found in the first five verses of the 14th Chapter here, when John says, "Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads." God the Father has determined that He will have a people for His own possession. They are a definite

number of His choosing, from before time began. And they will uphold the truth of His word the Bible, and His true worship throughout the worst times of the 1260 years of Antichristian domination. The true Church is in the Wilderness all during this time, but she will nevertheless be sustained, and even flourish at many points in this time period, in proportion to the faith and perseverance of the saints, and the blessing of God. The Lamb is pictured as standing on Mount Zion. Jesus Christ is ruling and reigning over His true Church His people. He and His brethren, whom He is not ashamed of, are making a joint declaration. They are declaring that Christ is the Head and King over His true Church. And yet they are brethren with Him. The Father has willed it to be so. Psalm 2, verse 6 says, "I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion." Zion was the stronghold that King David captured from the Jebusites, and made it his stronghold, his city, and His place of worship. In 1 Chronicles 11: 4 it says, "And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land." But the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, 'You shall not come in here!'" "Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David) It is a good picture of what Christ has done with His Church. Before we were conquered by our King Jesus, we did not want Him coming to our heart and to our life to change us and to take away our love of sinning. We were well-pleased with the Devil ruling over us, because he had deceived us. But King Shaddai came with all of His captains and all of His forces, to take the city of Mansoul. (Just like John Bunyan's allegory, *The Holy War* so well relates.)

The whole number of those whose souls have been conquered by Christ; He takes possession of for the Father, that the Father's name might be on their foreheads. This means that the Father's purpose in saving them is that they would be holy and that they might know God and worship God having been adopted by Him into His great family. This is their profession of faith and it is worn on the soul of the Christian just as surely as if Christ had taken and written His Father's name there. You can see this if you turn over to Romans 8, verse 12. We can see, here, that we are to boldly to take our stand against living according to the flesh. "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh." "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God." "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." So there we have it; the purpose of God's saving us is to bring us out of our sins and to make us His child. And we have the name of our Father written on our foreheads. That is; it is our profession of faith is to trust in Christ and to learn to leave our sins behind. It is not as in the Roman system, where confession of sins is made to the priest and the root of those sins is left untouched. The root of sins is the heart. When we believe in Jesus, the Spirit comes into our heart, and He comes in crying, 'Abba, Father'. God has adopted us to be His holy children, and we will become that by the grace of Christ. It takes the Spirit's work and power; it takes the Father's keeping us in the truth of what we have professed, leading and guiding us through the truth of the Bible to make that profession a reality. But the more our profession of Christ and holiness, and sound doctrine become a part of our soul's life, then in

proportion is Antichristian doctrine destroyed. When a person comes to Christ by faith, the Spirit and the Father speak peace to conscience and to the soul that is troubled by sin. And as time goes by, not only has forgiveness of all their sins been obtained, but also the power to overcome all their habits of sin which once held that person captive. This is tremendous witness against a ritual religion like Roman Catholicism and many liberal Protestant churches as well.

The one hundred and forty four thousand are the complete number of the Elect of God in heaven and earth, in New testament times, who worship in spirit and truth. The teaching of the twelve Apostles has been multiplied in its certain and good effects, through the preaching and spread of the word of God, twelve thousand times. It has been multiplied to the establishment of many thousands of churches, and many millions of true believers. It is the mystical and symbolical number of all those who worshipped in accordance with the truth of the Bible and have rejected the false doctrine and practice of Rome, both Pagan and Papal. We encountered this mystical number before in Revelation 7: 4. There the 12 tribes of Israel are mentioned by name as symbolically referring to that great number of true Christians who were sealed by God as those who would not be overcome by rise of false doctrine in the second time period of New Testament Church History. And here the mystical number is mentioned again to declare that God's elect would be gathered in spite of Satan's great scheme and deception to put a beast and a false prophet and a harlot in the place of Christ and His Church and His true ministers. The number in either case is not to be limited to the actual number of one hundred forty four thousand. The number is a definite number; however it is not limited to those who we can see and know to be of that number, even as Elijah did not know about the 7,000 who had no bowed the knee to Baal. It is God's true worshippers who have faced the false worship of the New Testament Babylon of Rome Pagan and Papal and have overcome by their holding fast the word of God. They declared their faith, and their adoption by God, and not simply a ceremonial religion.

Now 2ndly - For New Testament Babylon to fall, people must hear the voice of the sound of the preaching of Law and grace being distinguished. (Verse 2)

"And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder." The preaching of the word is a voice from heaven to the souls of men. It is a voice to speak to them about their sins. And it is a voice to speak to them about the grace of His Son. God does not Himself come down and speak to men lest they be overwhelmed and terrified. Turn with me to Exodus 19, verse 16. Here Moses has just finished giving the people; the law that he had received from God Himself up on Mt. Sinai. In Exodus 19, verse 16, it says, "Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain, and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled." All this was meant to speak to the people of the Holiness, the Majesty, the Glory, the Power, and the Justice of God. Now look over at Chapter 20, verse 18. "Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off." "Then they said to Moses, 'You speak with us, and we will

hear; but let not God speak to us, lest we die." "And Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.'" "So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was." You can see here that the law, even though holy, righteous, and good, could only make men afraid of God's just judgments. The demonstration of God's majestic holiness was so powerful that none dared approach. Moses was trying to encourage them to come near, but they would not. The preaching of the law of God is the voice of God to men, and they need to hear it. It speaks of the threatenings and warnings of what will happen if we do not see our sinfulness and repent of all of our sins. God is a holy God, perfect in His holiness and He declares His holiness in the law. But the law is not the only voice God has to speak to men with.

Turn over to Hebrews Chapter 12, and verse 18. "For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore." ("For they could not endure what was commanded: 'And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.'" "And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.'") "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angel, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of the sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel." "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks...." You can see here that the New Covenant is different from the Old in terms of approachability. In the Old you could not approach God; you could not draw near to Him without being afraid of His judgments coming against you. But in the New Covenant there is a Mediator. God is still a judge, but when you come to Mt. Zion, you do not need to be afraid because Christ is standing on it. He has conquered all the sins of all the people who are trusting in Him. His blood is able to cover them all, and to cleanse them all away. But we cannot refuse God who speaks to all men in this way. If you refuse having Jesus be your King and your Mediator, then there is nothing but eternal judgment which awaits. Verse 28 says, "Therefore since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." "For our God is a consuming fire." That means that we should not worship God with Romish doctrines which take us back to Mt. Sinai, where we are afraid and do not understand how to approach God.

We can conclude this sermon by saying that the preaching of the differences between the Old and New Covenants; the difference between Law and Grace, is a very good way of destroying the Antichristian system. Roman Catholicism is a system of people's adding their own works righteousness to the righteousness of Jesus Christ. It attempts to add what they believe the person can merit by his own good works, or religious works, to what Christ has already done and accomplished. They do not want to see that Christ has already fulfilled the Law and imputes to the one believing in Him, a better righteousness than he could ever work out on his own. They do not want to see

that justification is by faith alone, apart from the works of the Law. That is why they attempt to sacrifice Christ over and over again in the Mass. They do not believe that simple faith in the one sacrifice that Christ rendered on Calvary was enough. We must see the importance of preaching and sharing the gospel of the finished work of Christ; His complete and perfect obedience to God's holy Law, fulfilling all of its righteous demands, and paying the sacrificial penalty for all the sins which have been committed. Why does Rome believe that they need Mary's intercession and the saint's intercession, unless the intercession of Christ is not seen to be enough? Rome will have to answer for this in the coming day of judgment. But we can help bring down this Antichristian system and destroy Satan's kingdom by proclaiming the truth. Let us all be bold to proclaim it. Let us be like the sound of many waters with our united voice. Let us be like the sound of loud thunder to warn people about refusing to listen to Him who speaks through His blessed word. And the Antichristian system will eventually fall. Let us never forget our part; what the Lord will have us to do, to bring about its downfall. Let us remember that the Father has adopted us to be His holy children. He has given us His blessed Spirit so that we would learn to make no provision for the flesh. Let us remember to sound the gospel forth and not shrink back from declaring all that would be profitable for men, and women, and children to hear from God's word. The next time that we are gathered around this passage we will speak about the New Song that the believer sings. He sings because of the grace which is at work in His heart.