

**Fear God and Give Him Glory!**  
Revelation 14:6-7  
Reformation Day, October 31, 2010  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Broadlands

Fear God and give Him glory!

Fear God. Give Him glory. Give Him glory because He has redeemed you. He has placed His seal upon you. He has put His Name right between your eyes. He has placed it upon your forehead. Give Him glory because this is the way that He marks His redeemed.

His Name is on you. His Name marks those who belong to Him. His Name marks those whom He has purchased not with silver or gold, but with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. His Name marks that place where He dwells. You are a temple of the living God. You are living stones built together into a temple where God dwells by His Spirit. You are the seven golden lamp stands among whom Jesus walks.

You are the redeemed. He has redeemed you at great cost. He has redeemed you at great price. He has redeemed you at the blood of Jesus. He has redeemed you with the death of Jesus. It cost Jesus much, but He paid the price. He paid the price for you. It cost Him much grief but Jesus endured the grief the suffering and the shame. He did it for you. He redeemed you. That is the cost.

He redeemed you from sin and death. For those of you who love sin there is no reason to sing that Jesus has redeemed you from sin. For those of you who loathe sin there is every reason to rejoice that Jesus has redeemed you from sin. He has redeemed you from death. For those of you who love death, there is no reason to sing and rejoice. But for those of you who loathe death and dread it, there is every reason to sing and to rejoice. He has redeemed you from sin. He has redeemed you from death. He has paid the price. You have His Name. You sing.

You sing a song that no one else can learn to sing. After all you sing the song of the redeemed. No one else can learn this song because no one else is redeemed. Those who are not redeemed might be able to figure out that they ought to praise God, but they really don't have anything for which to praise Him. The redeemed have all of the reasons to sing God's praises. He saved you from sin and death. What's not to sing about? He saved you from your sins that haunt you, your demons that torment you, your guilt that won't go away no matter how many times you tell it to do so. He saved you from death. He saved you from death that you are putting off until later, that you worry about all of the time, that you try to avoid with health and diet and with holy living. It won't work. He must save you and He has. He has saved you from death. He has redeemed you from death. You are the only people who can sing to Jesus about His redeeming you from death. Those whom He has not redeemed cannot sing the song. Those whom He has not saved cannot sing the song. He has not redeemed them. He has not saved them. They cannot learn the song. They have nothing about which to sing.

You sing the song because you have everything that there is to sing about! How can you keep from singing?

Fear God! Give Him glory! He has redeemed you.

Fear God! Give Him glory! His judgment has come.

God's judgment is a good thing. God's judgment is a good thing. Jesus sitting up there on the great white throne, that is a good thing. Jesus separating the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, that is a good thing. Jesus dismissing some to everlasting damnation and others to everlasting life, that is a good thing.

It is good that God judges. It is good that God has appointed Jesus Christ to judge. It is good that God has revealed that Jesus will judge by raising Him from the dead. It is good that Jesus judges, because He became flesh. Once Jesus became flesh we would make acquaintance with our judge and learn upon what basis He will be doing His judging. We can learn from Him who goes to heaven and who goes to hell. We can learn from Him who rises to everlasting life and who rises to everlasting shame and contempt. This is a good thing.

God's judgment is good first off because it is God's. It is bad to think that the judgment is bad. It is bad to think that Jesus sitting upon His throne and consigning some to heaven and others to hell is bad. To think that Jesus' judgments are bad is to think that the judgments of God are bad. If you think the judgments of God are bad then you think God is bad. Therefore the judgment of God is good simply because God is the One who is doing them. If He consigns someone to damnation it is a good thing because God did it. They deserved it. If He welcomes someone into everlasting life, it is a good thing, not simply because someone was welcomed into everlasting life, but because God did it. God did it and it is therefore good. God made the world and it is good. God judges the world and it is good.

God's judgment is good because God is just. He is eternally fair. When God judges the world He is not going to make a mistake. God is not going to let someone off who should be condemned. God is not going to condemn someone who is innocent. Jesus will not judge by what He sees with His eyes. He will not adjudicate by what He hears with His ears. With righteousness He will judge the nations. Therefore Christ's judgment is good because Christ's judgment is right. You do want what is right don't you?

The judgment of Jesus is good because He has brought the judgment in advance. We are not standing in front of the final judgment seat just yet, but we have met the judge. We are not at the point of no return where not even repentance will save us. Repentance and faith will still save us. There is still time to change one's mind and heart. There is still forgiveness available. And yet even though we are not at the end where the judgment occurs we have heard from the judge already. We already know who Jesus is. We already know what He thinks. We have even already heard His preliminary judgments. That is why the Gospel readings are so important in Church. In those readings Jesus is giving His preliminary judgments. They are preliminary not because they are temporary and He may change them. They are preliminary in that they come to us in advance. They are not tentative. They are real. They come in advance.

Jesus says to the penitent, "Your sins are forgiven." The judge has spoken His judgment. To whomever He says that, that person's sins are forgiven. Jesus says to the self righteous, "Woe to you hypocrites all." The judge has spoken His judgment. Those people are condemned. Don't like the judgment that Jesus has spoken to you? Repent for He has brought the Kingdom of heaven with Him. Listen to His judgments: Salvation has come to your house. Never even in Israel have I seen such faith. I forgive you of all of your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. These are the judge's judgments. Give Him glory over them!

Do you see why His judgments are good? Do you see how His judgments are righteous? Jesus never makes a mistake. He has not made a mistake in forgiving you. His judgments are good. They are good because you hear something good. They are good because they are the judgments that He makes.

Whatever it is that makes you fear the judgment so that you do not wish to experience it is something that you must repent of. If you think the angel in midheaven is wrong when he says, "Fear God and give Him glory because the hour of His judgment has come," then whatever it is that makes you think that he is wrong is something that you will have to repent of. Repent of it now before the judge is actually on the throne and you are being separated like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Worship! Worship the One who made the heavens and the earth. Worship the One who made the sea and the springs of water.

In Jamaica I took time to float in the water. Christy taught me how to float. I realized that after all these years what kept me from floating is the same thing that keeps me from salvation. I was trying too hard. She taught me to relax. I relaxed and lo and behold I just floated there. It was great. While I was floating there I noticed the waves pushing me up and down. Wow was that relaxing. It was like having a massage. The Almighty was giving me a massage. He was using His sea to push me gently up and gently down.

That is the same sea that He used to send hurricanes. That is the same sea that can produce thirty foot waves. That is the same sea that has claimed countless lives. That is the sea that has borne His judgments and His power. That is the sea that He was using on that day to push me gently up and down while I floated on His power.

Worship that God. You have every reason to. Not only did He make everything, He has redeemed you. He has redeemed you with the precious blood of His Son.

And really that is what the Scriptures are all about from end of them to the other. They are about worship. Their chief concern with worship is that we get the object of our worship right. The chief problem that we have is that we worship our idols. We worship our money. We worship our belongings. We worship our intelligence. We worship our shrewdness. We worship our ability to make friends. We worship our friends. We worship our popularity. We worship our ability to plan ahead and to organize our lives. We worship our ability to solve problems. Aren't we good? We can solve problems. We worship our own righteousness. We worship our own patience. We worship our own kindness and goodness and gentleness and self control.

All of the gods that the ancients worship were nothing more than representations of things that they worshipped. They worshipped the sea because it looked powerful to them and they worshipped power. They worshipped the stars because the stars contain great beauty and so they were really worshipping beauty. They worshipped the sun or the rain because they brought life and so they worship their ability to bring fertility and life. All of the gods really were representations of what the ancients worshipped about themselves. They worshipped their own ability to provide life, avoid death, be beautiful. Now all of our gods are the same we just don't bother with the statues any more. We think that we will make the One true God happy if we simply don't bother with the statues any more. But that is not true because we continue to worship what they did. We continue to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We continue to seek to be like God, to be the One who is worshipped.

That is why the angel's message is Good News: Worship God! In case you don't know who He is, He is the One who made the heaven and the earth. He is the One who made the sea and the springs of water. It was not the sea that gently pushed me up and down. It was our Father in heaven who pushed me up and down that day. Worship Him! Even the sea was saying it by displaying His power. Worship Him. If you are going to get anything right in your life, get this right: Worship God! Give Him glory.

Now on Reformation Day it sounds odd for a command to worship God be labeled an eternal Gospel. On Reformation Day one might be tempted to say that the eternal Gospel is the forgiveness of sins which our Lord Jesus Christ obtained for us by His death upon the cross, thus giving us everlasting life. And that would be right. And the angel would teach us that worshipping God and receiving the forgiveness of our sins from Jesus Christ are not different things. To receive the forgiveness of our sins from Jesus Christ is to worship God. To receive the forgiveness of sins is to worship Him because His

judgments have come. To receive the forgiveness of sins is to fear God and give Him glory. Those are not different things.

For when you receive the forgiveness of your sins you cannot be worshipping yourself. When you receive the forgiveness of sins Jesus is the Savior and you are not. Jesus is the One who is popular and you are not. Jesus is the One who is praised and lauded and thanked and you are not. When your sins are forgiven Jesus is the One who is powerful and you are not. When your sins are forgiven Jesus is the One who judges and you do not. When your sins are forgiven, Jesus is the One who made heaven and earth and the sea and the wells of water including the wells of water that burst open when Noah built the ark. If you are a sinner, then you are not any of those things. If Jesus is the forgiver of your sins then Jesus is all of those things. If Jesus is all of those things, then you have worship right. If Jesus is all of those things, then you have feared God. You have given Him glory.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.