

Message: ***"Are You Ready for the End of the World?"***

Scripture: Revelation 16:17-21

(03-09-25 Pastor Tony Hao)

Maybe if people just see God at work, His power and justice, then they will repent and follow Him? From Revelation, we learn about the first three bowls of judgment being poured out in 16:1-7; then we see the next four bowls in 16:8-21. John tells us how the wicked respond to God and His work of justice upon this world. Will they repent?

Three times in this chapter, we see men curse God for His justice. They know the plagues are from Him. Yet they will refuse to repent, cursing God instead. Unless we understand the utter sinfulness of human beings, we won't get this. Do you see the hostility against God that is displayed here, its irrationality and stubbornness?

First application: Trust in God and His perfect justice. What is the purpose of these bowls? These bowls represent the fullness of God's ultimate justice. Every wrong will be punished by a just Judge. Trust that in the end God will make all things right.

Second application: Get right with God. Let us not have hard hearts. Pastor Douglas Wilson has said that the two statements atheists make are: first, there is no God; second, I hate him. Let us be in a posture before the Lord where we realize all we have is by His mercy, grace and kindness to us in Christ Jesus. Repent!

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What contents are in each bowl of wrath? Why are these plagues worse than those ushered in by the trumpets?
2. What has God done in your life to help you repent? How willing are you to admit your guilt and repent when you sin?
3. How does this passage make you feel? Why? What does it make you want to do? How would you explain the necessity of these plagues especially to someone who is not a Christian?