

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

The Marvelous Multitude

Revelation 7:9-17

1. Their Diversity

One of the consequences of man's sin is that God divided us into different groups separated first by language and then by bloodlines and cultures (cf. Gen. 11:1-9). Though we all are of one extremely extended family (Acts 17:26), there is no shortage of reasons for why men are prone to division. Jesus Christ commanded that His gospel was to be spread across the world and for His disciples to make disciples of all the nations (Matt 28:19).

2. Their Commonality

The basis of all Christian unity is the gospel of Jesus Christ and that all believers have washed their clothes white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:14). God has always planned that He would have servants from every place and group of people (cf. Isa. 19:19-25; 56:4-7; 66:18-21). The only way that anyone could ever live and stand before God has been by faith in Him (Gen. 15:6; Hab. 2:4; cf. Rom. 1 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11). This new reality is to be more central to the identity of the believer that it eclipses any reason for animosity between brethren (2 Cor. 5:16-21; cf. Eph. 2:14-16; Col. 2:13-14).

3. Their Priority

The singular focus of these redeemed people is to serve God night and day in His temple (v.14a). The Lord has promised His people that our eternal reward would be to have a permanent residence and function in the presence of God Himself (Rev. 3:12; 21:22-25). Every believer will experience a fullness of joy while in the presence of the Lord (Ps. 16:11) to that the extent that life's trials and troubles will immediately seem insignificant (Ps. 84:6; 2 Cor. 4:16-18). The focus of our attention will be God Himself (cf. Rev. 21:23) and all of our activity will be to serve Him and to give Him glory for all eternity (1 Cor. 15:28; Rev. 4:8; 22:3; cf. Gen. 2:15).