REVELATION 7-9-17



- God's gospel work uniting different peoples around Jesus and His work on the cross is a good work, but it isn't always easy for His people to live out and fully embrace. In what ways do you make it difficult to live in unity with those in God's people that are different from you?
- 2 Revelation 6:16-17 describes how the great day of wrath of the One seated on the throne and of the Lamb has come. How is the question "Who can stand?" from Rev. 6:16-17 answered in Rev. 7:9? How are they enabled to stand before the throne and the Lamb?
  - Read Isaiah 1:18, 64:6, Hebrews 9:11-14, 1 John 1:7. Discuss the deep need everyone has for their robes to be washed and made clean "in the blood of the Lamb."
  - According to Romans 8, there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Do you relate to God more like He is your judge or as Your Savior? How should you relate to Him and why?
  - How should the confidence of no condemnation affect you today and the next few months? Think of things like past sin, current struggles, and your confidence in your relationship with the Lord
- 3 Several hundred years before the vision the Apostle John recorded in the Book of Revelation, the prophet Isaiah was given a similar promise of hope in God's future salvation. Read Isaiah 25:6-9. What similarities do you see between Isaiah's prophecy and John's vision?
  - Meditate together on the promises God makes to swallow up death forever and wipe away tears from all faces. What are some of your tears that you long to have wiped away and comforted? How does a fear of death affect you today?

	Read the following truth statements and discuss which encourages you most right now and why.
	There are times in this life where it isn't easy to celebrate. But, Jesus is a victorious Savior. The richest and brightest day of celebration is yet to come. We can bring our losses and disappointments to Him and trust Him today.
	Jesus sees every tear on every one of His people's faces. You aren't another face in a crowd with Jesus. He comforts specifically and personally.
	Through Jesus, there is coming a day when wounds will finally be healed. Suffering will end. Even death itself will be swallowed up. Don't give up. Fix your eyes on Jesus' victory and find the strength to press on today.
4	<b>There is a theme of victory in this text.</b> Though the words win or victory don't show up in the text, it is very much in the foreground. Discuss together all the ways that you can see Jesus' victory on display in Rev. 7:9-17.
	✔ Look specifically at how the text says that "salvation belongs to our God." What is significant about the fact that salvation belongs to God?
	➡ How might the truth that "salvation belongs to our God" affect what you pray for and how you pray, especially in times of crisis or uncertainty?
5	In Revelation 7, the Lamb is seated on His throne. What does the fact that Jesus, the Lamb of God, is seated imply about His work of salvation?
	▼ Jesus' work is done, but His people's work isn't. They have been tasked with a mission of their ownto proclaim the good news of His finished work and call others to follow Him. This text should encourage us in that mission. In what ways do you struggle becoming discouraged in the mission God has called His people to?
	There is an assumption in this text as a great multitude of people from all tribes and languages is gathered around the throne of God. What do you think that is? Think specifically of the details of the great commission mandate and Jesus' words in Matthew 16:18.
	➡ How can Jesus' finished work on the cross and a vision of a finished work in heaven encourage you and embolden you as you share the good news this week?