**Sermon Notes April 16, 2023**

**Series**: Revelation

**Sermon**: Yes Lord, You are True and Just in Your Judgments, Part 1

**Scripture**: Revelation 14:9-10, 16:1-11, Matthew 8:11-12, Jeremiah 51:6-7

**Summary**: In this chapter we see the first 5 of the bowl judgments being poured out. The judgments are intended to show the righteousness of God and the hardness of man’s heart because people refuse to repent or seek forgiveness. Do we need to talk to God about repentance?

**Read**: Revelation 16:1-11

Today we begin to examine the destruction of this Earth by a just a righteous God who has simply had enough of the disobedience. It’s important that we understand where John is taking us… these are prophetic images of what will take place in the future, and they are without dispute. Because these angels are unemotional in this task, I have to believe that they have one mission, and that is to be obedient to God. This obedience ought to be the same obedience that we demonstrate, especially when God gives us something to do.

1. **First Bowl – Harmful and Painful Sores**
   1. Revelation 16:2
      1. First example of God’s wrath
      2. Painful sores
      3. Another warning to avoid taking the Mark of the Beast
         1. Revelation 14:9-10
2. **Second Bowl – Seas Become Blood**
   1. Revelation 16:3
      1. Most likely indicates all the oceans of the world.
   2. This is not intended to turn men to repentance, but to punish those who are at war with God.
3. **Third Bowl – Rivers and Springs Become Blood**
   1. Revelation 16:4-7
      1. All sources of fresh water become like blood.
   2. Angels are giving specific assignments to protect different areas of the world from demonic influence.
      1. The angel is in agreement with God’s judgment.
4. **Fourth Bowl – Scorching Heat**
   1. Revelation 16:8-9
      1. Light and warmth of the sun is magnified.
         1. Represents a taste of the Lake of Fire.
      2. This is the second time we are told that man’s heart will not soften toward God.
      3. Those who remain see God as their enemy.
5. **Fifth Bowl – Darkness**
   1. Revelation 16:10-11
      1. Darkness falls on Babylon – the Antichrist’s capital.
   2. Matthew 8:11-12
      1. The darkness is a foretaste of the eternal darkness that the followers of Satan will experience for all eternity.
   3. Jeremiah 51:6-7
      1. The darkness could allow any in hiding in the kingdom of the Antichrist to escape the coming destruction of “New Babylon” under the cover of darkness.

**Application / Next Steps**

For the second time humanity shakes their fists toward heaven and blasphemes God’s name.

The lack of repentance surprises me… Could their hearts be so hardened… that they simply hate God? Yes.

How about right now? How’s your heart? Is it hardened and angry with the Lord?

Do you need to talk to Him about repentance?

We’re so close to a time when we’ll no longer be able to go to Him for forgiveness. My prayer is that that opportunity doesn’t slip past you.

Right here, right now, we have the opportunity to focus… to focus our hearts intently on worshiping the Savior. We need to nail some things to the cross in a sign of confession.

If you know Jesus confess and repent… then reengage your relationship with Jesus.

If you don’t know Jesus… there’s one extra step… believe and have faith… then confess and repent.

That’s an extremely simplified explanation… we can help you through the process.

Once each of us gets to this point… then we obediently follow him.

Are you willing to focus your intentions to serving Jesus today? His return is imminent… we must be ready.