

Few Find the Way to Life - Part 5

by Zac Poonen

The sermon emphasizes the importance of being bold and open in our devotion to Jesus, and singing the song of the lamb in our hearts.

Duration: 10:19

Scripture: Ephesians 5:19, Revelation 7:9-10, Revelation 7:14-17, Revelation 13:16-17, Revelation 14:1-5

Topics: "Salvation Assurance", "Discipleship Commitment"

Description

This sermon discusses the concept of babies who die going to heaven, regardless of their background or religion, as the righteousness of Christ is credited to them. It contrasts the vast number of these innocent souls with the symbolic 144,000 mentioned in Revelation, emphasizing the importance of boldly identifying as a disciple of Jesus. The sermon also delves into the significance of having the name of Jesus on one's forehead, symbolizing an open and unashamed commitment to Christ, unlike being a secret follower of the devil.

Transcript

I believe there'll be millions of Indians in that crowd, millions of Africans. You know why? Because there are more babies that die in India and Africa than in almost any other country in the world. And all those babies, as soon as they die, they go to heaven.

There are millions of abortions in these countries and all those aborted babies, whoever they are, Hindu, Muslim, Atheist, Christian, it's a baby. How does it go to heaven? Because the righteousness of Christ is put to its account. Can you put a million rupees into the account of a one-day-old baby? Yes or no? Okay.

You go to a bank and ask them. They'll tell you, yes, you can. You can open an account in the name of a baby and put a million rupees there.

It didn't earn one bit of it, but it's in its name. And it's like that, the righteousness of Christ is put to the account of these babies because they haven't consciously done any sin, they've not had the opportunity to accept Christ. And that itself will be a fantastic number that we cannot count.

Think of all the babies that have been aborted and killed and, you know, the devils behind all abortions, but God's going to turn it for good because all of them are going to go to populate heaven. And so many, this infant mortality rate is very high in poorer countries and that's why I believe there's going to be a lot

more people from the poorer countries in heaven than from all the rich countries. From every tribe and tongue and nation, there's not one tribe or tongue or nation on the face of the earth, even in the jungles.

There are babies that die in the jungles of those barbarians that go into God's kingdom. Just such a great multitude that you can't even count that number and they're all cleansed in the blood of the Lamb and they're clothed in white garments. It's the righteousness of Christ and they stand before.

Now that's a number which cannot be numbered. Then you come to chapter 14, compared to these billions and billions and billions and billions, you find 144,000. That's nothing.

I mean even compared to the population of Bangalore which is about 8.5 million, 144,000 is nothing. It's nothing. This is about 1 or 2% of the population of Bangalore.

It's a very small number. What is 1%? It's even much smaller compared to the population of the world right now. And compared to the population from the time of Adam, all the people in the world, 144,000 is a tiny bit of sand.

It's a very small number. So that's what he's emphasizing here. Not a fixed number of 144,000.

It's compared, contrasted with chapter 7. And he says here, these people are different from the people there in chapter 7. What did the people in chapter 7 say? Oh Lord, our salvation is due to you. We did nothing. We're cleansed in the blood of the lamb.

That's good. We all need to start there. But here, about these people, it doesn't say these 144,000 had their sins cleansed in the blood of the lamb.

It says a lot more. Just read. They have the Lord Jesus' name and the Father's name on their foreheads which teaches me one thing.

That they were not ashamed, wherever they are, to be known as disciples of Jesus. Have you seen some Hindus who've got marks on their forehead? They're not ashamed. They are boldly proclaiming, wherever they go.

They go to work like that. Hindu ladies who have a red mark. They boldly say everywhere, I am a Hindu.

I have worshipped my God today and here is ash I've put on my forehead. I've seen Muslims even in trains. I was travelling in the Brindavan once and I saw a Muslim man asking his children to get up from the seat and I was wondering what he was going to do.

And he spread his little mat on that on those seats and bowed down towards Mecca and he was praying. I said, boy, it's Christians who are ashamed. It's the ones who believe, who say they believe in the true God, who are ashamed to acknowledge I'm a disciple of Jesus.

I may not get my promotion. There are Christians who are happy that their names don't sound like Christian names. Thank God.

My boss doesn't know whether I'm a Christian or not so he won't stop my promotion. Are you like that? Are you bold, wherever you are, to be known? I'm not saying we go around advertising but are you ashamed of one who is not ashamed to die for you on the cross? They have his name on their forehead. You know, in another place it says the Antichrist offers you the option, that's in chapter 13, of having the name on

your hand.

It's chapter 13 verse 17, just a couple of verses earlier. You can have his mark either on your forehead or verse 16. You can have the mark either on your right hand or on your forehead.

There's an option. The devil says you can be a public disciple of mine or a secret disciple of mine. You know, you have the mark in your hand and nobody can see it.

The point is the devil says you can be a secret disciple of mine or a public disciple of mine. That's up to you. You know, you can publicly be an atheist or publicly do a lot of wrong things and publicly worship the devil in various ways.

Or you can be a secret disciple of Jesus, of the devil. That means in your office or at home you do things which are ungodly but then you come to the church, your hands are closed and nobody knows the wrong things you've done. Maybe you've done the wrong things with your hand which pleases the devil and not God.

And then you come here and you sit here and sing the psalms. The mark is on your hand. Nobody can see it.

The devil gives you that option. You're not like those other people who have the mark of the devil on their forehead. You're not an open follower of the devil, a secret one.

Use your hand to sign a false statement to make some money. Nobody knows it. The mark is on the hand.

Do something wrong. But when it comes three verses down it says the followers of Jesus, they don't have that option. Jesus doesn't say you can have my hand and you can be a secret disciple of mine.

No. You've got to have it only on the forehead. That's it.

Open. So this is different from those other people. And it also says about them that they sang a new song, verse 3, which no one could learn except these people.

Why was it such a difficult tune with these great musicians that only they could learn the song? I found some wonderful children of God who can't sing one line of our songs straight. Not one line. I mean, you ask them to lead a song on any song in the world, they'll be wrong in the first line itself.

You mean there's no hope for such people in God's kingdom? It's got nothing to do with musical ability. It's the song of the Lamb which they learned. You know what the song of the Lamb is? Worthy art thou, O Lord.

I don't deserve anything. I'm nothing. I'm nobody, Lord.

It's a song. It's a song that we sing without our lips in our heart. It's a heart attitude.

You know, it says about singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. You read that verse in Ephesians 5? It means you don't even open your mouth and you're singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. It's that type of song where in your heart you're saying to God, O Lord, thou alone art worthy.

I'm not worthy of anything. I'm just a nobody. I was a nobody when I was first converted.

I know I've been in this church many years, but I'm a nobody today. They sing that song all the time. They're singing it in secret to the Lord.

There are others who don't know that song. They sang it once when they first came to the church when nobody knew them. They used to sing, Oh, I'm nobody here.

I'm so thankful I'm here in CSE. But after some time they don't sing that anymore. Their song is, I thank you Lord that I'm also somebody today.

It's another song. They've forgotten the old song. But these people learned this song and went through with that song right through their life.

You're a blessed person. If you can sing that song to the last day of your life on earth, Lord thou art worthy. Thou alone art worthy.

I'm a nobody. I was a nobody. I am a nobody.

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