

Do You Belong to the True Israel? Revelation 7:1-8

Take-Home Truth: Revelation teaches the purified Church (the True Israel) to never stop sharing the Gospel and to continue through the tribulations of this world until Christ returns.

Christ-Connection: Christ is the True Vine, the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption, and the only question that matters is whether we are part of the True Israel that have placed our faith in the True Vine.

Hook: *(Ice-breaker question. Get the group talking!)*

1. Briefly share about a time where you disagreed with another Christian over a biblical doctrine. What did you learn from this experience?

Engage: *(Observe the passage and engage with the text)*

2. (Note: Don't spend too much time on this question since it could easily dominate the discussion) Richard was careful to point out that there is room for disagreement on this passage's meaning. Do you prefer the Dispensationalist view that the Church will be raptured before the tribulation and not be part of the end times? Or do you gladly accept the view that the purified church will be called to share the Gospel through the Tribulation?

Reflect: *(Reflect upon the key take-aways from the sermon)*

3. If reasonable Christians can disagree on the interpretation of this scripture, what does this teach us about learning to "disagree agreeably" on matters that are not essential to our faith? How must we protect our hearts when this happens?

Respond: *(Apply the truths of God's Word to your heart, affections, and actions)*

4. Many people falsely believe that attending church, going to community groups, or following church traditions equates to salvation. At the end of the day, what is your assurance of salvation? In other words, is the root of your assurance connected to what you do for God (religion) or is it grounded in what God has already done for you through Jesus Christ your behalf (the gospel). (Note: No "churchy" answers allowed. Honestly

assess your own heart, asking God to help you see blindspots or areas where you may be prone to trust in your own righteousness.)

5. What price are we willing to pay and how much are we willing to suffer to live out the gospel message and share it with the world?