



Big Idea: Live and long to be the presence of God.

-- v. 14 – This eternally jubilant assembly is comprised of people who have overcome every struggle of the world in Christ.

-- **Two characteristics of saving faith:**

1.) JUSTIFICATION in Christ – White robes are used in Revelation to show that Christ's redeemed people are robed in His righteousness.

2.) PERSERVERANCE in Christ to the End

- "Great tribulation" refers in part to the general tribulation that all Christians face in all times (Mat. 13:20-21).
- "Great tribulation" refers specifically to the ultimate tribulation that will surround Christ's second coming (Mat. 24:21).
- Those who stand in the great multitude in heaven are those who come through tribulation by perseverance in Christ.
- Only those who are truly saved will persevere in Christ unto the end (1 John 2:19).

-- The church exists to bring glory to God by **TREASURE** Him above all else in every circumstance, no matter how difficult (Rev. 2:10).

-- Even though God's people may suffer tremendously on earth, their hope in heaven is absolutely unshakable and full of glory.

-- **v. 16-17 – The eternal newness of God's resurrected people is described here by what is forever **BANISHED** in His presence.**

-- The reason all these bad things are gone forever in God's kingdom is because God is perfectly present there (v. 15, 17).

-- Where God is perfectly **PRESENT** evil is necessarily absent (1 John 4:18).

-- Since absolute joy and satisfaction are a function of God's presence, we should love and long for the presence of God.

-- *Are we desperate for God to be present in our lives, our homes, and our church?*

-- **The Lord's Supper a vivid reminder that Christ is present with us now in every way that we most **NEED****

-- In taking the bread, we look forward to that day when, in the immediate presence of the risen Christ, we will never hunger again, for every longing of our hearts will be forever satisfied in His presence.

-- In taking the cup, we do so in eager anticipation of that day when, in the shelter of God's presence, we will no longer thirst, for our deepest needs will be perfectly fulfilled in His presence.

-- *Do you hunger and thirst to be in the presence of Christ?*