


## Revelation 14 14-20 "Final harvest"

As we saw last week in our study John will give assurance to the redeemed in Revelation 14 verses 1-5, warn the wicked in 6-11, and then encourage the righteous in verses 12, 13.

**Character is forged in the small decisions in life and manifested in the big ones... If you don't live for Jesus you will never be able to die for Him.**

 The first time ever recorded in scripture an Angel preaching the gospel... **He gives the Final Call:** This one is "good news" for God's people—but bad news for the rebellious "earth dwellers": "Fear God..." "Judgment is come."

**13** Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." **HEAVEN AWAITS THE BELIEVER.**

**A literal place called Hell awaits those who do not accept the work done by Jesus on the cross...**

### Biblical descriptions of Hell

1. Fire
2. Darkness
3. No Rest
4. Unquenchable thirst
5. Forever and ever...

Throughout the Bible, we see God's love and grace freely available to all who will accept it. The entire Bible is a record of the extremes He has gone to in order to allow us to avoid the destiny of our fallen state. When people reject this grace and do not have their sins covered with the blood of the "Lamb of God". They affectively say, "No, God, I do not want to love you"; "I want to run things my own way."

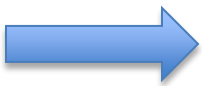
God's Three Alternatives

- He can indulge it and allow it to go on forever, but in that case all the cruelty, injustice, hatred, pain, and death that now prevails on the earth will

go on forever, too. God does not want that and neither does man.

- He could make man into robots and force our love, However, removing our free will would also take away our capacity to give our love to God freely. Love cannot be forced. In order for love to be real one must be able to choose. Or...
- He can withdraw Himself from those who refuse His love. He must let them have their own way forever. Since God is necessary for our existence, the decision to reject God is a decision to plunge ourselves into the most terrible sense of loneliness and isolation a human being can know—and to endure this eternally, without any hope.

Ultimately it is we ourselves who choose whether God will judge us. It is we ourselves who decide either to accept or refuse His grace, love, and forgiveness. It is we ourselves who choose everlasting life—or everlasting death.



The judgment of God against sin will be so great we must be praying for those in our lives who don't know our Redeemer.

Remember, sin must be paid for. Either we pay for it by eternal separation from a Holy God who cannot be in the presence of sinful man or we accept the payment of Jesus. Jesus drank the whole cup. He took all God's wrath. No one who trusts in Jesus has to drink the wine of God's wrath because Jesus drank that cup for us.

**Matthew 7 verse 13** *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.* Jesus cuts our choices to **2** - **2** gates, **2** ways, **2** crowds, **2** DESTINATIONS... It's either **ETERNITY IN HEAVEN** or **ETERNITY IN HELL**. When you enter eternity there's just **2** sections - *smoking or non-smoking*. **PRAY**

May we stand together and give honor to God's glorious Word, **Revelation 14 verse 14** Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. **15** And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come

for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” **16** So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. **17** Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. **18** And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” **19** So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. **20** And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

**When Jesus spoke parables he was addressing certain people within the crowd. We must remember there were Messianic expectations from all religious leaders.**

- 1. The true Messiah would vindicate the righteousness of all those “who kept the law”. Yet He called them whitewashed tombs on the outside full of dead men’s bones...**
- 2. He certainly would not hang out with sinners. Thus why have you not purged the sinners from among your ranks.**

**Oh yes there will be a purging... at the end of time “Escatological separation of the sheep and goats... but for now the sheep and goats co-exist. Wheat and tares grow together. The good fish and bad fish will be separated one day.**

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

**Matthew 13:24** Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; **25** but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. **26** But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. **27** So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ **28** He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ **29** But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat

with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.""

### The Parable of the Dragnet

**Matthew 13:47** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, **48** which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. **49** So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, **50** and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

**Our text is speaking about the final harvest... eternal life, eternal judgment... One day God will separate the sheep from the goats, the wheat from the tares**

**Harvest... Hamilton sums it up well,** "This harvest pertains to people and to what people have done. There is a strong tradition in the Bible of people sowing deeds and the fruit of those deeds being reaped. Hosea 8:7 speaks of those who "sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind." Jesus spoke of the man who planted a fig tree that bore no fruit, so he gave orders to cut it down. The vine dresser said he would fertilize it, and if it still bore no fruit it could be cut down (Luke 13:6-9). Paul told the Galatians, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7). People's deeds are reaped in this passage in Revelation. The deeds of the wicked are the grapes that are trodden to produce the wine of God's wrath that will be poured out of the seven bowls in chapter 16."



John is describing the vision he had of final redemption, and in the vision everything is fulfilled. This is the fulfillment of the exodus, the fulfillment of God's provision for his people, the fulfillment of everything Jesus and the prophets had to say about the harvest of the earth. John describes his vision of what happens when the end has come. In 14:14-20 we will see two harvests, grain and grapes.

**I have heard it said and always agreed that nothing we do is neutral. Always great to reflect on what we are doing to prepare ourselves for eternity.**

This is what my tombstone will read... **1965 - ????** Dash is your life. **What are you doing with your dash?**

James 4: 14 For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

**YOUR DASH:** 70 years = 25,550 days... 613,200 hours  
36,792,000 minutes... 2,407,520,000 seconds

40 hours a week at work 17 years of your life at work  
8 hours sleeping over 23 years of your life asleep

6 years eating... Six months sitting at stoplights

88 days opening junk mail

One year looking for misplaced objects (all in your last 5 years of life)

**You get the point!** "One life will soon be passed and only what was done for Christ will last" **What are you doing with your dash?**

**Revelation 14 verse 14** Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

**SPURGEON** "How different it will be to see him with a crown of gold upon his head from what it was to see him wearing that terrible crown of thorns which the cruel soldiers plaited, and thrust upon his brow! The word used here does not usually refer to the diadem of power, but to the crown won in conflict; and it is very remarkable that it should be said that, when Christ comes to judge the world, he will wear the garland of victory, the crown which he has won in the great battle which he has fought. How significant of his final triumph will that crown of gold be about those brows that were once covered with bloody sweat when he was fighting the battle for our salvation!"

**15** And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

**RIPE** This ancient Greek word for **ripe** has a negative sense, "to become dry or withered." The idea is of something that is *over-ripe*. This means that God will judge the earth only when it is *over-ripe* for judgment. He doesn't rush into judgment.

**16** So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. **17** Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also

having a sharp sickle. **This angel is the reality behind the legendary “grim reaper.”**

Consider the implications of the appearance of this true grim reaper. He comes to bring the wrath of God. He comes to call the wicked to account.

**18** And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.”

**Walvoord** "These allusions seem to indicate that the angel is acting in response to the prayers of the saints for divine judgment on wickedness."

**“The grapes are fully ripe” Iniquity is completed... the wicked have filled up the full measure of their sin.**

**19** So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. **God will keep His word and will reward righteousness and punish wickedness.** *The outpouring of His justice on the wicked is meant to augment and highlight the beauty of the salvation accomplished by Christ on the cross.*

This vivid picture of

“One life will soon be passed and only what was done for Christ will last” **What are you doing with your dash?**

When Antonio James was a teenager, he got mixed up with a gang in New Orleans. They would rob tourists in the French Quarter at gunpoint. ***“Most of the time, the victims did not resist. Except one. Antonio shot him, and he died.”*** His gang members ran, then testified against him to save themselves. Antonio James was sentenced to death. He was on death row for 14 years. Before he died, he became a Christian. He used his time on death row to teach others on death row to read so that they, too, could read the Bible. He taught Bible studies and cared about other men facing death.

In the death chamber he asked forgiveness from the victim’s family and told them he was sorry for what he had done. The warden of Angola prison, Burl Cain, also a believer in Jesus, took the hand of Antonio James and said, ***“Antonio, the chariot is here; get ready for the ride. Here we go; you are about to see Jesus.”***

When Burl Cain announced that the execution had taken place, he said, “We have sent Antonio James to his final judgment.”

**What are you doing with your dash?**