



Sermon Series: Facing Our Fears, Part 2

Sermon Title: The End of All Fear

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer, May 16, 2021

Revelation 1:17-18

Evil daily assaults our life, yet we don't need to be afraid.

Big Idea: Despite evil's apparent victories, Someone is greater

Nothing can stand in God's way. Neither death, nor hell, nor any evil!

Revelation 1:9–18

Jesus offers us at least 2 reasons not to be afraid of anything in this world.

I. Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Authority

No one and no thing existed prior to Jesus. **Revelation 1:17, Colossians 1:16**

No authority is more final than that of Jesus Christ. No one supersedes him, including the power of evil. (**Philippians 2:9–10**) The claim to be “First and last” is an unabashed claim to deity. (**Isaiah 44:6**) God is “first” as the Creator. He is also the “last” in that He directs all of creation to fulfill His sovereign will. There can be only one 1st; only one last. Jesus repeats the claim in **Revelation 22:13**. Jesus is the final authority in the univ who brings us to the end of all fears.

II. Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Victor

Revelation 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Anyone who held keys to the gates of an enemy possessed great power to defeat him. **Revelation 3:7**

The Son of God has power over death and hades itself.

Hades (Greek), also called Sheol (Hebrews) in general terms, it is a temporary holding place of the dead.

Luke 16 describes it. There Jesus describes it as Hades (Sheol), which consisted of 2 compartments separated by an impassable gulf. Prior to Christ's resurrection it was a place where both the saved and the unsaved dead existed. One side, a place of peace and reward; the other side, a place of torment and despair.

When Jesus died He descended into Hades to proclaim victory. **1 Peter 3:19**

Jesus went first into the prison of Hades and proclaimed his victory. He then crossed over to the side of the saved – and then brought all those departed saved ones to heavenly realm where they are now. And when Jesus returns, we read, **1 Thessalonians 4:14** *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*

The side of Hades that the saved dead occupied remains empty today as mute testimony to the One who holds the keys of death and hell. This same Jesus, who conquered the gates of hell, calls you to himself. Once you respond, no evil in can tear you out of his grasp.

This same Jesus who holds the keys will again unlock the gates of hell.

Revelation 20:11–15 is a description of all those who never trusted Christ as Savior while they had the opportunity. And they will be cast aside forever.

Someday EVERY grave will be opened. Indeed, this eventual grand opening of graves is exactly what our Lord promised. **John 5:25–29**

The Bible says that our bodies will be sewn in the ground and will be raised with immortality to one of two destinies.

Revelation 21:6 Jesus said “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Read Luke 16:19-31 and discuss why this is more of a description than a parable of Jesus.
- Jesus conquers all, yet fear still grips many of His followers. Why is that?
- Could Jesus cease all evil if He chose to? How would that affect free will?
- How does knowing Jesus help you control your fears?

BIBLE VERSES

Revelation 1:9–18 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Revelation 1:17 "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

Colossians 1:16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Philippians 2:9–10 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Isaiah 44:6 “This is what the LORD says— Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

Revelation 22:13, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

Revelation 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Revelation 3:7 “These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

1 Peter 3:19 He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Revelation 20:11–15 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

John 5:25–29 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out...

Revelation 21:6 [Jesus said] “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.