

Text: Revelation 15:1-4
Topic: Obedience. Humility.
Series: The Book of Revelation

April 27, 1997
Pastor Mike

97-15

God-Centered Christians

Rediscovering the Point of Following Christ

15:1 I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed.

2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God 3 and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb:

"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

4 Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship before you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed." (NIV)

1. When Circumstances Are Bad... (vv.1, 3)

...They _____

2. When The Cost is High... (vv.2, 4a)

...They _____

3. When There's Success... (vv.2-4)

...They _____

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of the questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you to apply the principles to your life situation. These questions are also used by many of our small groups that meet throughout the week.

1. It was proposed that many people today are being presented with a Christianity that "us-centered" rather than "God-centered". What in your opinion is the difference?

What then would "people-centered" evangelism and a "people-centered" gospel look like as opposed to "God-centered" evangelism and a "God-centered" gospel?

2. As Will Metzger points out in his book *Tell the Truth* (©1984, IVP) "God-centered" and "Man-centered" Christianity is not a complete antithesis—since according to the Bible's God-centered approach people do indeed benefit, they are loved, and they are rewarded. The problem though lies in reducing God to a Divine Being that exists for the purpose of benefiting people as opposed to the other way around. How can you see these two different view points having radically different ramifications in one's daily "Christian" life?

3. How difficult is it for you to maintain an opinion that God is good, when things in your life have gone bad?

What did Job learn about this at the end of his dialog with God? (See Job 38:1-5; 40:1-8; 42:1-6.)

How can this be applied to your life when the bad things of this world touch your life?

4. The choices we make everyday in our Christian lives pit what is right against what feels good. How does a "God-centered" Christianity speak to this daily battle?

Read Matthew 16:21-22. Have you ever fallen into the trap of giving this kind of counsel to someone (or maybe even yourself)? What did Jesus say about this kind of "comfort"? (See Matt.16:23-25.)

5. How difficult is it for you to "give credit to God" when there is success in doing what is right in your life? How can you keep from the error of Nebuchadnezzar and Herod (Dan.4:28-32 and Ac.12:21-23)?