

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
September 22, 2024

*"Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens,
the earth and all that is in it." – Deuteronomy 10:14*



trinityreformedct.org

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Nehemiah 9:5b-8a

Leader: Arise, bless the LORD your God forever and ever!

People: O may Your glorious name be blessed

Leader: And exalted above all blessing and praise!

People: You alone are the LORD.

Leader: You have made the heavens,

People: The heaven of heavens with all their host,

Leader: The earth and all that is on it,

People: The seas and all that is in them.

Leader: You give life to all of them

People: And the heavenly host bows down before You.

Leader: You are the LORD God,

People: Who chose Abram

Leader: And brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees,

People: And gave him the name Abraham.

Leader: You found his heart faithful before You,

People: And made a covenant with him

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Hebrews 4:14-16

***Hymn #65** (red hymnal) – “Before Jehovah’s Awesome Throne”

Scripture Reading – Daniel 7:9-28

Ancient Creedal Reading – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sung Psalm #11B** (see insert below) – “My Trust Is in the Lord”

Prayers of the Church & Lord’s Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Heidelberg Catechism (1563 AD), #52

Leader: *What comfort is it to you that (in the Apostles Creed states)
“Christ shall come again to judge the quick and the dead”?*

People: **That in all my sorrows and persecutions,** Luke 21:28

Leader: *With uplifted head I look for the very same person,* Rom 8:23

People: **Who before offered Himself for my sake,** Philip 3:20

Leader: *To the tribunal of God, and has removed all curse from me,* Titus 2:13

People: **To come as judge from heaven:** 1Thes 4:16

Leader: *Who shall cast all His and my enemies* 2Thes 1:6,8-10

People: **Into everlasting condemnation,** Matt 25:41-43

Leader: *But shall translate me with all his chosen ones to himself,* Matt 25:34;

People: **Into heavenly joys and glory.** 2Thes 1:7

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Revelation 4:1-6a

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “Heaven”

(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

***Hymn #274** (red hymnal) – “Thine Be the Glory”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

All are welcome for Fellowship & Food downstairs after Worship

Announcements

- If anyone has a large tub good for apple bobbing please see Verna.
- If anyone would like to volunteer send out cards (e.g. greeting, birthday, etc.) on behave of the church please see Pastor Doug.

Upcoming Special Events

- On Saturday, October 12th at noon, there will be an **outdoor pot luck** at Pastor Doug's House. (54 Horseshoe Cir. Barkhamsted, CT 06063). Please bring a lawn chair and a dish if you can. There will be fall games, apple bobbing, etc. Rain Date: October 19th.
- The New England Reformed Fellowship's **Bolton Conference** will be on Friday, October 25th through Saturday, October 26th at the Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville, MA 01588. newenglandreformedfellowship.org/2024-conference
- The **Annual Meeting** will be after church on November 17th.

Regular Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i>	9:00 – c.10:00 AM	Sunday School Children's curriculum: KVB Publications Women's Study: Study on cults Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism
	10:30 – c.11:40 AM c.11:40 AM	Worship (Lord's Supper on the 1 st Sunday of the month) Coffee Hour Fellowship
<i>Tuesday</i>	10:30 AM – Noon	Tuesday Classics Study at Pastor Doug's house Overview of Medieval Theology & reading some Aquinas
Wednesday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Wednesday Bible Study at Pastor Doug's house Origins of the Bible & a Study of 2Peter & Jude
Friday	6:30 - ??? PM	Young Adult Discussion Group at Pastor Doug's house (1 st & 3 rd Fridays)
Saturday	morning	Prayer Group at the Gabelmann's (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

ONLINE RESOURCES

TRC's Webpage:	TrinityReformedCT.org
TRC's Facebook Page:	facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
TRC's Youtube Channel:	youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
Pastor Doug's	youtube.com/simplyreformed
Youtube Channels:	youtube.com/@PilgrimsOfPlunder

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests you would like for, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: trcnwprayer@gmail.com. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

Elders:	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrossell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com
Deacons:	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
Sunday School:	Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell	Music Coordinator:	Cindy Rines
Clerk:	Sheryl Gabelmann	Treasurer:	Cindy Rines

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – *Phone:* (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – *Email:* trinityreformedct@gmail.com

Sermon Notes

Revelation 4:1-6a
"Heaven"

A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7
September 22, 2024

Introduction

- 1) When you think of heaven, what do you first think of?
 - a) For mainline/liberal Protestants of the 20th century, including its most famous theologians, if they even believe in a literal heaven (many did not), it is some ethereal mystical place where our energies dance with the cosmic light.
 - b) Likewise, when most mainline/liberal parishioners speak about heaven, usually only at funerals, it is a place where the deceased goes to be with his, or her, friends, family, army-buddies, pets, etc. The deceased will "never be forgotten" and the living will be with him, or her, again.
 - c) Please note, Who is completely missing from these descriptions. (*Answer: God*).
 - d) The idea that in heaven there is some ancient man sitting on a throne with everyone worshipping Him is viewed as childish.
- 2) Of these three views, guess which one is the mature view? Dan 7:9,13,22
The biblical view? The one that is true? God's view?
- 3) Daniel 7:9-10 – *"I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, and the books were opened."*
- 4) One of the key books to understand heaven is Revelation.
 - a) It is not surprising the idea of heaven can bring great comfort in this life.
 - i) After all, we are just temporary pilgrims in this fallen world. Phil 3:20; Heb 11:13
 - ii) We await our true destination: Eternal, direct, perfect communion Rom 8:19-24
with God in the new heavens and new earth.
 - b) It is surprising, however, that this is not the main comfort that Revelation gives.
- 5) A heavenly perspective is a great blessing.
 - a) I don't mean trying to figure out heaven from our fallen sinful state, 1Cor 13:12
which is at best, like looking into a mirror dimly.
 - b) But seeing the big picture, the true picture, seeing all space and time without sin, to see everything, from God's perspective.
 - i) That would bring great comfort to the saints.
 - ii) That would require a special revelation.

Review of the Apocalypse & Revelation 4:1-2a

- 1) Revelation was written by the elderly Apostle John, while on the Island Rev 1:9
of Patmos, where he was in exile because of the faith.
 - a) Revelation, most likely, was written around 95 AD, as testified by the earliest witness of the ancient church fathers, and the majority of scholarship.
 - b) Making Revelation the last book of the Bible written.

- 2) In 95 AD, Domitian is the Roman emperor (r.81-96), known for his autocratic and despotic rule and his persecution of the church at the end of his reign. (Domitian was so disliked he was assassinated by his own court officials in 96 AD).
- 3) The main themes of Revelation, in pastor Doug's opinion¹, are:
 - a) The key work of the church is to remain faithful to Christ, by remaining faithful to the biblical orthodox faith, even during times of great persecution.
 - b) Knowing that God is sovereign and working out His plan for all history to bring Himself glory and show kindness and mercy to His people.
- 4) Revelation is a collection of seven different visions that describe the unfolding of history, from this present age until the end of the age.²
- 5) Outline of chapters 1-3:
 - a) Rev 1:1-3 The Book of Revelation is a special revelation from the Father to the Son, communicated by "His angel" to the Apostle John.
 - b) Rev 1:4-20 John has special revelations of Christ and of heaven and is commanded to write to the seven churches in Asia (i.e. modern western Turkey).
 - c) Rev 2:1-3:22 "Report card" to the seven churches.
- 6) To give one example of the seven, look to the weak and tiny, but very faithful church in Smyrna:
 - a) Revelation 2:9-10 – *"I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."*
 - b) Though one of the smallest churches, Smyrna (and Philadelphia) are the only ones Lord Jesus has nothing negative to say about them.
- 7) After these "report card" visions to the seven churches an even more dramatic revelation happens.
 - a) Rev 4:1 – *"After these things (Rev 1-3) I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice (Rev 1:10ff – John commanded to write Revelation from heaven) which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things (after the seven "report cards" of Rev 2-3)."*
 - b) John is summoned to (or at least see) heaven and from heaven's perspective.
 - i) This is not a request, it is a command, which John cannot refuse.
 - ii) Rev 4:2a – *"Immediately I was in the Spirit . . ."*
(Or, "Immediately I was in spirit . . .")

¹ In order to preach through Revelation, especially chapters 4-20, the preacher has to take a stance on how to read it, usually choosing from one of the different major schools of how to interpret the book, which are:

Preterist = Revelation is about the past and especially the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD by the Romans.

Historicist = Revelation is a chronological timeline from Christ's 1st Advent (birth) to His 2nd Advent (return at the end).

Futurist = Revelation is mostly about the future end of the age.

Idealist* = Revelation is mostly about the current church age. (This is Pastor Doug's approach.)

Pastor Doug's favorite commentary on Revelation is: More Than Conquerors: An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation by William Hendriksen (Baker, 1940). For a good overview of the major interpretative schools see: Revelation Four Views: A Parallel Commentary edited by Steve Gregg (Thomas Nelson, 1997)

² Below is how Hendriksen divides the various visions in Revelation:

	<u>Vision 1</u>	<u>Vision 2</u>	<u>Vision 3</u>	<u>Vision 4</u>	<u>Vision 5</u>	<u>Vision 6</u>	<u>Vision 7</u>
<i>Present Church Age:</i>	1:1-3:22	4:1-6:11	8:1-12	12:1-13:18	15:1-16:12	17:1-18:24	20:1-6
<i>Tribulation - End of this Age:</i>	---	6:12-7:8	8:13-11:14	14:1-13	16:12-16	---	---
<i>Perfect Final Age to Come:</i>	---	7:9-17	11:15-19	14:14-20	16:17-21	19:1-21	20:7-22:21

- iii) At the very least he sees heaven by special revelation.
Whether he bodily went to heaven is debatable though not that important.

What is Heaven?

- 1) The Bible, like modern English, uses the term “heaven” in different ways. Deut 10:14; Ps 19:1; 148:4;
2Cor 12:2; Eph 4:10; Heb 4:14
- 2) Generally, the “heavens” refers to any place as being “up” from us.
 - a) It can refer to what we call “the atmosphere”, where birds fly, and/or what we call “outer space”, where the planets are. Job 12:7; 35:11; Ps 8:8; 79:2
Job 22:12; Ps 8:3; Is 13:10
 - b) Genesis calls both these places the “expanse” or the “firmament.” Gen 1:6-8,14-15,17,20
- 3) The Bible also calls the place where God dwells as “heaven.” 1Kgs 22:19; Rev 4:1-11
 - a) Unlike the other two concepts of heaven (sky & space) this is a spiritual realm.
 - b) Though it is still created, remember only God, the Creator, is not created, everything else is created. Gen 1:1; Neh 9:6
Ps 90:2; Titus 1:2
 - c) The Bible calls it the “highest heaven”, literally, “the heaven of heavens.”³ Deut 10:14; 2Chr 2:6;
Neh 9:6; Ps 68:33; 148:4

God Enthroned – Revelation 4:2-6a

- 1) The first thing John sees in heaven is not God but a throne.
 - a) Revelation 4:2 – *“and behold, a throne was standing in heaven . . .”*
 - b) A throne is the seat of power, where only the king can sit, and does the actions of the king, i.e. reign. Esther 1:2; 5:1
 - c) God, enthroned in heaven, is a common biblical teaching in both Testaments.⁴
 - i) Psalm 11:4 – *“The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD’S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.”*
 - ii) Matthew 19:28 – *“And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*
 - d) At the center of all things, throughout all time and space, is a seat of power, meaning all that happens is done in an orderly, purposeful, and good way.
 - e) As the Confession puts it: *“God the great Creator of all things does uphold, (Heb 1:3) direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, (Dan 4:34-35; Ps 135:6; Acts 17:25-26,28) from the greatest even to the least, (Matt 10:29-31) by His most wise and holy providence, (Prov 15:3; Ps 104:24; 145:17) according to His infallible foreknowledge, (Acts 15:18, Ps. 94:8-11) and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, (Eph 1:11) to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy. (Is 63:14; Eph 3:10; Rom 9:17; Gen 45:7; Ps 145:7)”* – Savoy Declaration 5.1 – Of Providence

³ When the Bible says “the something of somethings” (e.g. “king of kings”, “song of songs”, “holy of holies”, etc.) it is a figure of speech stating it is the best of something. (Ex 26:33; Deut 10:17; Ezra 7:12; Ps 136:2-3; SoS 1:1; Ezek 26:7)

⁴ 2Sam 6:2; 7:13,16; 1Kgs 22:19; 1Chr 29:23; Ps 9:7; 11:4; 45:6; 47:8; 80:1; 89:14; 93:2; 97:2; 99:1; 103:19; Is 6:1; 9:7; 66:1; Jer 3:17; 17:12; Lam 5:19; Ezek 1:26-28; 43:7; Dan 7:9-10; Zech 6:13; Matt 5:34; 23:22; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:30; 7:49; Heb 1:8-9; 12:2; Rev 3:21; 4:2-6,9-10; 7:15; 20:11-12; 22:1,3.

e) The “throne of God” is used in different ways in the Bible.

- i) David’s, the great king of Old Testament Israel, throne was called “*the throne of the LORD*”. 1Chr 28:5; 29:23; 2Chr 9:8
- ii) Jerusalem is called “*the Throne of the LORD*”. Jer 3:17
- iii) This is because those OT things (kings, nation of Israel, Jerusalem) are shadows and figures with their fulfillment in Christ. Col 2:17; Heb 8:5; 10:1
- iv) Because God’s Kingdom is about Christ. (More about that in later sermons.)

f) Here in Revelation 4, the throne is clearly the heavenly throne, where God rules and reigns.

2) Of course, the most important aspect of heaven is God Himself.

a) God is described as being “*like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance*”. – Rev 4:3b

b) Note the “*like*” and “*in appearance*”.

- i) Of course God is not made of jasper or sardius. John 4:24
- ii) John is struggling to describe the full glory of God in flawed and limited human language.
- iii) The “literal” way to read Revelation is to understand it uses figurative language. No one reads Revelation in a simple, hyper-literal way.
- iv) We don’t want to over read into these images – engage in fanciful allegories.
- v) We do want to hear the biblical echoes they represent, however.

c) The stones represent God’s sovereign majesty, glory and beauty.

d) They appear in the Bible when one sees God’s glory and power.

- i) They represent Eden and the cherub (the highest rank of angels). Ezek 28:13
- ii) And at the Exodus, when God appeared at Sinai. Ex 24:10
And on OT priests’ clothing who will attend to God. Ex 28:17-20; 39:13
- iii) They describe the heavenly Temple. Ezek 1:26,28; 10:1
- iv) And the New Heavens and the New Earth at the end of the age. Rev 21:10-11,18-23

3) A rainbow (or halo, or a circle of light) is “*around the throne, like an emerald in appearance*.” – Rev 4:3c

a) It can represent God’s angels.

(Where we get the idea that angels have halos). Rev 10:1

b) A rainbow represents God, because the closest physical thing to God is light.

Ezek 1:28

c) Rainbows in this world represent God’s covenant never to destroy all life on earth.

Gen 9:13

4) Around the throne are 24 thrones that seat 24 elders in white garments with “*golden crowns on their heads*.” – Rev 4:4

a) The number “12” represents completeness so “24” represents great completeness.

2Sam 21:20
1Chr 20:6

b) It represents all of God’s people, taking the OT 12 Tribes of Israel together with the NT 12 Apostles.

Gen 49:28; Ezek 47:13; Matt 10:2ff; 19:28
Luke 22:30; Acts 26:7; 1Cor 15:5; James 1:1
Rev 4:10; 5:8; 7:5-8; 11:16; 19:4; **Rev 21:12-14**

- c) The white garments represent the saints in glory,
who are fully clean because they have been
washed by the blood of the lamb. Eccl 9:8; Zech 3:3-5; Eph 5:26;
Rev 3:3-4,18; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9,13-14;
Rev 19:8,14; 22:14
- d) The crown represents a person of high status and authority.
- i) Not only kings wear crowns, but also royalty
and OT priests wore crowns. Ex 29:6; 39:30; Lev 8:9;
2Sam 1:10; Esth 1:11; 2:17
- ii) All Christians receive a crown in heaven,
because we are all priests and made
of Christ's royal line by His blood. 1Cor 9:25; 2Tim 4:8; James 1:12;
1Pet 5:4; Rev 2:10; 3:11; 4:4,10;
Rev 12:1; 14:14; 19:12
- 5) From the "*throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder*". – Rev 4:5b
- a) Again, the image is of Sinai, where God directly spoke
to people and gave the Law. Ex 19:16; 20:18
- b) Which represents the church. Heb 12:18-24
- c) It also represents God's judgment. Rev 8:5; 11:19; 16:18
- 6) "*And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;*"
- Rev 4:5c
- a) The "seven Spirits of God" is the Holy Spirit. Rev 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6; 8:2
- i) This is a great verse to illustrate how no one reads Revelation in a
narrow literal famous, but everyone reads it figuratively.
- ii) There are not "seven Holy Spirits".
- b) In Rev 4:5, the number 7 represents the Holy Spirit.
- i) Seven is a very important number in Revelation.
Used 55 times in 30 verses (in Greek).
- ii) There are 7 churches and 7 sections in Revelation.
- e) Seven is the biblical symbolic
number of completeness. Ex 12:15,19; 20:10; 25:32; Lev 4:6; 14:7;
16:29; 25:2-6,8; Num 28:11; 29:12; 2Kgs 5:10
- f) As seen how the Holy Spirit is described in Isaiah:
Isaiah 11:2 – "*The Spirit of the Lord (1) will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom (2)
and understanding (3), the spirit of counsel (4) and strength (5), the spirit of
knowledge (6) and the fear (7) of the Lord.*"
- 7) "*and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal*" – Rev 4:6a
- a) This is an interesting and challenging image.
- b) Water is one of the primordial building blocks of creation. Gen 1:2,6-10,20-22
It was there before light was created. Ps 18:11; 148:4
The heavens are related/similar to water. Jer 10:13; 51:16
- c) Yet, generally, the "sea" is a bad thing in the Old Testament.
- i) The Jews were not a sea-faring people.
- ii) Going out into open waters in the
ancient world is a dangerous thing. Gen 1:21; Job 7:12; Is 51:9-11;
It is where the sea monsters live. Ps 74:12-15; 107:23-29; 148:7;
Ezek 32:2; Jonah 2:3; Matt 8:23-26; 12:40
- iii) In Revelation water frequently represents
chaos and rebellion. Rev 7:2; 8:8-11; 11:6; 12:12,15;
Rev 13:1; 16:3-5; 17:1,15; 21:1

- God's judgment is the pouring forth of blood into the water. Rev 11:6; 16:4
- The devil pours out "water" trying to destroy the church. Rev 12:15
- The evil beast from Revelation 13 comes from the water. Rev 13:1
- The great harlot "sits on many waters". Rev 17:1
Which represents the world/nations. Rev 17:15
- iv) In the new heavens and the new earth there will be no more sea. Rev 21:1
- d) Water is a beautiful thing and a necessary thing too.
 - i) The voice of God is "*like the sound of many waters.*" Ezek 1:24; 43:2
Which is beautiful and terrifying! Rev 1:15; 14:2; 19:6
 - ii) Christ leads us to "*water of life.*" John 4:14; Rev 7:17; 21:6; 22:1,17
 - iii) In the new heavens & new earth there will be "*a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,*" - Rev 22:1b
- e) I think the image of "sea of glass" in Rev 4:6 is all of creation, history, time and space from God's perspective – It is good, and calm, and perfect. Ezek 1:22; Rev 15:2; 21:18,21

Conclusion

- 1) Ever been really focused on a troubling issue and then something much more important comes along and it refocuses all your thinking?
 - a) Like Job, who endured great suffering. Job 1:13-19; 2:7-8
 - b) And even prayed for God to stop it and for God to explain why. Job 13:20-24
 - c) Job did get an answer: God!
The only answer. Job 38:1-3; Job 40:1-5; 42:1-6
- 2) Revelation was originally written to a very persecuted tiny little church through one of its key elderly leaders in exile who had an extraordinary vision.
 - a) Remember the church in Smyrna.
 - i) The church was going to be attacked directly by Satan. Rev 2:9-10
 - ii) Some would die but those who remain faithful would be blessed.
 - iii) Rev 2:10 – "*Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*"
 - b) The comfort of the future of heaven is not the main message of Revelation, however. (Though that is a great blessing!)
 - c) The Book continues with even a more grand and staggering revelation:
 - i) We see God enthroned and we are allowed to see the world from His perspective.
 - ii) And before Him all of creation, time, space and history is like a sea of glass.
- 3) How can we not trust in the Lord Jesus who gives us His perfect righteousness (heavenly clothes of pure white) from which we do works of love. Eccl 9:8; Rev 3:4-5,18; 4:4; 6:11; Rev 7:9,-14; 19:8-14
- 4) And the crowns we receive, let us cast them in worship before Christ. Now and for all eternity when we all shall sit on thrones. Matt 19:28; Luke 22:30; Rev 2:10; 3:11,21; Rev 4:4,10; 11:16; 20:4