

# Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for  
March 2, 2025

*"but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst;  
but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water  
springing up to eternal life." – John 4:14*



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“\*” = Please stand if you are able.

## Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

### Call to Worship – Revelation 1:1-3

*Leader: The Revelation (literally, the “Apocalypse”) of Jesus Christ,*

**People: Which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants,**

*Leader: The things which must soon take place;*

**People: And He sent and communicated it by His angel**

*Leader: To His bond-servant John (the Apostle),*

**People: Who testified to the word of God**

*Leader: And to the testimony of Jesus Christ,*

**People: Even to all that he saw.**

*Leader: Blessed is he who reads*

**People: And those who hear the words of the prophecy,**

*Leader: And heed the things which are written in it;*

**People: For the time is near.**

## Prayer of Invocation and Confession

### Gospel Absolution Texts – Isaiah 25:8-9

8 He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

9 And it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”

**\*Hymn #235** (red hymnal) – “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

**Scripture Reading** – Revelation 21:1-22:7

**Ancient Creedal Proclamation** – Nicene Creed (pg#846 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 #103A – “O Bless the LORD, My Soul”**

**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 – Westminster Larger Catechism, 86,90.**

*Leader: Question: What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?*

**People: That their souls are then made perfect in holiness,** Heb 12:23

*Leader: And received into the highest heavens,* 2Cor 5:1,6,8; Phil 1:23; Acts 3:21; Eph. 4:10

**People: Where they behold the face of God in light and glory,** 1John 3:2; 1Cor 13:12

*Leader: Waiting for the full redemption of their bodies,* Rom 8:23; Ps 16:9

**People: Which even in death continue united to Christ,** 1Thes 4:14

*Leader: And rest in their graves as in their beds,* Is 57:2

**People: Till at the last day they be again united to their souls.** Job 19:26-27

*Leader: Whereas the souls of the wicked are at their death cast into hell,* Luke 16:23-24

**People: Where they remain in torments and utter darkness,** Acts 1:25

*Leader: And their bodies kept in their graves, as in their prisons,* Jude 6-7

**People: Till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.**

*Leader: Question: What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?*

**People: The righteous, being caught up to Christ in the clouds,** 1Thes 4:17

*Leader: Shall be set on His right hand,* Matt 25:33

**People: And there openly acknowledged and acquitted,** Matt 10:32

*Leader: Shall join with Him in the judging of reprobate angels and men,* 1Cor 6:2-3

**People: And shall be received into heaven,** Matt 25:34,46

*Leader: Where they shall be fully and forever freed* Eph 5:27

**People: From all sin and misery;** Rev 14:13

*Leader: Filled with inconceivable joys,* Ps 16:11

**People: Made perfectly holy and happy**

*Leader: Both in body and soul, in the company of innumerable saints*

**People: And holy angels,** Heb 12:22-23

*Leader: But especially in the immediate vision and fruition of God the Father,* 1John 3:2  
1Cor 13:12

**People: Of our Lord Jesus Christ,** 1Thes 4:17-18

*Leader: And of the Holy Spirit,*

**People: To all eternity.**

*Leader: And this is the perfect and full communion,*

**People: Which the members of the invisible church**

*Leader: Shall enjoy with Christ in glory,*

**People: At the resurrection and day of judgment.**

## Ministry of the Word

### Prayer of Illumination

\***Sermon Text** – Revelation 7:13-17

\***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** – “The End of All Things”

(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

## Ministry of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

### Invitation & Warning

### Prayer

**Scripture** – Revelation 19:5-9

### Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

\***Hymn #541** (red hymnal) – “When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder”

\***Benediction**

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*All are welcome for Fellowship & Food downstairs after Worship*

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## Announcements

- **New Members Classes** will start soon. If you are interested in joining the church, or have questions, please contact Pastor Doug.
- As of now, **Wednesday Study** will begin at the standard time of **6:30 PM**.  
Gen Alpha Club will start on March 12<sup>th</sup> and meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.
- *Snow Cancellation Policy:* Though TRC is loathed to cancel **Sunday worship**, because of the rural location of the Grange, and that Rt 263 seems to be of low snow-plowing priority we are going to take a moderate approach to cancellation. If we cancel, everyone will be emailed, and it will be posted on Channel #3 and the church’s facebook & webpage.  
When it comes to **week-day studies**, Pastor Doug is very liberal about canceling (he lives on a rural hill). He will email and call everyone, however, if in doubt, study is probably canceled.

## Upcoming Events

- There will be a **Ladies Bingo & Pot-Luck Supper Night** on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM (with a snow date of Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>) at the Gabelmanns’ pool-house. All adult ladies are welcome!
- Easter is on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Regular Weekly Events

*Sunday* 9:00 – c.10:00 AM

10:30 – c.11:40 AM  
c.11:40 AM

*Tuesday* 10:30 AM – Noon

*Wednesday* 6:30 – 8:00 PM

*Friday* 6:30 - ??? PM

*Saturday* morning

## **Sunday School**

Children's curriculum: KVB Publications

Women's Study: Baucham's Expository Apologetics

Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism

**Worship** (Lord's Supper on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)

## **Coffee Hour Fellowship**

**Tuesday Study** (Evangelism in Acts) at Pastor Doug's house

**Wednesday Study** (on Exodus) at Pastor Doug's house

**Young Adult Discussion Group** at Pastor Doug's house  
(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays)

**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 for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: [trcnwprayer@gmail.com](mailto:trcnwprayer@gmail.com). (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

## LEADERSHIP

|                |                              |              |                                     |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Elders:</b> | Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor | 860-379-1147 | douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net       |
|                | Bob Ensminger                | 860-485-8738 | robert.ensminger@arthurgrussell.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

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## **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

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# Sermon Notes

Revelation 7:13-17

“The End of All Things”

A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7

March 2, 2025

## Introduction

- 1) We are at the end!
  - a) The last section, the end of chapter 7, in our sermon series on Revelation, chapters 4-7.
  - b) In today’s sermon text we are at the very end of all things – we are in the “age to come”, in the “new heavens and new earth.”
- 2) We have been going through Revelation 4-7. Where we see reality for how it really is, from God’s perspective, enthroned in heaven.
- 3) God the Father has a scroll containing His plan for His church, and all creation, Rev 5:1ff
  - a) It is described as a seven sealed scroll.
  - b) Only the Son, shown as the risen Lamb, can reveal and execute God’s plan, Rev 5:3-5  
opening one seal at a time.
- 3) The seals deal with the time from Christ’s 1<sup>st</sup> Advent (2,000 years ago starting with His birth) through His 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent (when He returns in power and glory to usher in the final age).
  - a) The 1<sup>st</sup> Seal is about this present age and is Jesus Christ Himself, and Rev 6:1-2  
His Gospel, going forth (spiritually) “*conquering and to conquer.*”
  - b) Seals 2-4 are about this present evil age where the church Rev 6:3-8  
will be persecuted because of Christ and His Gospel. Gal 1:4
  - c) The 5<sup>th</sup> Seal shows the saints in heaven (the church triumphant), especially Rev 6:9-11  
those martyred, who cry out for justice for their brothers and sisters on earth (the church militant) being persecuted, even though they in heaven have been made perfect (as shown by having white robes) and are at rest.
  - d) The 6<sup>th</sup> Seal is about the future, the end of this age. Rev 6:11ff
    - i) Towards the end there will be a Great Tribulation – Where the Matt 24:21  
world will go insane, greatly persecuting the few Christians left.
    - ii) At the very end creation itself comes undone and crashes down Rev 6:12-17  
on the wicked to their horror and doom.
    - iii) Christ then returns, His 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent.
    - iv) All Christians, throughout all time are “sealed” by God. Rev 7:1-8
      - Those who died before Christ’s return are resurrected 1Cor 15:52  
unto glory.
      - Those few alive at Christ’s return are changed unto glory. 1Cor 15:51  
(Called “the quick” from the ancient creeds.)
    - v) Then there is the final age, the perfect New Heavens & New Earth: Rev 7:9-12
      - The heavenly city will be populated with all the saints Rev 7:9  
from all different nations/ethnic groups.
      - They stand before the Throne of God, showing they are Rev 7:9  
His children and are the King’s men, part of His host.

- They are shown wearing white robes, meaning they are now without sin. Rev 7:9
- They are shown having palm branches, as sign of great rejoicing that (perfect) salvation has come. Rev 7:9-10
- All of God's good creatures (angels & men) fall down in worship and say "*Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.*" – Revelation 7:12

## **Heavenly Catechism – Revelation 7:14a**

- 1) This is epic! Imagine being the Apostle John, the author of this book, seeing this in a vision.
  - a) However, we are not yet done.
  - b) Something strange happens.
- 2) One of the "elders", i.e. one of the saints in glory, asks John a question.
  - a) Someone might ask: Wait! John saw this vision sometime around 95 AD and now he is seeing the very end and a saint from the future goes over and talks to him? Rev 1:9ff
    - i) The answer is "yes."
    - ii) That is why Revelation is called a "prophecy", that John was "in the Spirit on the Lord's Day" and had wondrous visions. Rev 1:3,10; 9:17;  
Rev 10:11; 19:10;  
Rev 22:7,10,18-19
    - iii) John sees outside of time and space, which are mere creations of God to be used for His good pleasure.
    - iv) Who knows, maybe the elder was the future glorified John! However, the text doesn't say and let us not engage in vain speculation.
  - b) Remember the main purpose of Revelation is to give comfort to a persecuted church, that all which happens is by God's sovereign plan, with the call to remain faithful and trust in the Triune God. Rev 1:4-5  
Rev 1:17-20
    - i) Whether persecuted in John's time around 95 AD.
    - ii) Or persecuted throughout this age, as Revelation teaches.
    - iii) Or the final, worst, persecution during the Great Tribulation.
  - c) And remember Revelation is about the church and deals mostly, though not exclusively, with this present evil age.
    - i) Again, seals 1-5 are about this present age.
    - ii) Only seal 6 is about the age to come.
- 3) The elder begins by "answering" though no question is given!
  - a) This happens throughout the Bible. It is a rhetorical device to highlight a very important point.
  - b) The elder answers/asks: "*These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?*" – Revelation 7:13
  - c) We have seen the saints clothed in white before in Revelation, knowing they have been cleansed and allowed to be in the presence of God. Rev 3:4-5,18; 4:4;  
Rev 6:11; 7:9
  - d) This answer/question is clearly to drive home a critical point.



4) John's response is great.

- a) Imagine being able to peek in and seen the greatest royal wedding of all time and one of the groomsmen notices you and goes over and asks you "do you know why those assembled at this wedding are here?"
- b) John says to the elder, "*My lord, you know.*" – Rev 7:14
- c) When in doubt, punt! (First try not to do say or do something stupid.)
- d) It also shows respect and acknowledgment of his position.
  - i) As a Christian who is yet fully cleansed standing before a glorified saint, thus "*My Lord.*" Is 6:1-5
  - ii) And the realization the saint in heaven would truly know, thus "*you know.*" 1Cor 13:12
- e) Note the charity and purpose of the question.
  - i) The elder does not ask: "Who are you and why are you here?!"
  - ii) Instead, he wants to educate John (and us readers.)

5) The elder graciously answers: "*These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation.*"

- a) Again, this highlights the purpose of Revelation – to give encouragement to the saints.
- b) In the narrow sense this refers to those few saints that remained faithful during the Great Tribulation at the end of the age.
  - i) That period of the most intense persecution the church will ever know.
  - ii) What a blessing to hear that these brothers and sisters will be fully glorified.
- c) In the broad sense, all Christians in this age will know tribulation because we live in "*this present evil age.*" - Gal 1:4
- d) There are some ages, and some locations, that will be better and worse than others.
  - i) Being a Christian in 2025 in the USA is vastly better than being a Christian in North Korea or Somalia.
  - ii) Praise God for His mercy of having us be in America.
  - iii) And our prayers go out to our brothers and sisters in the world who currently know great persecution.
- e) All Christians called to be faithful throughout their lives.
  - i) It is true not everyone is called to be a pastor, missionary, elder, etc. 1Cor 12:28-31
  - ii) And we are not called to seek out martyrdom. Acts 9:24-25; 1Cor 7:21
  - iii) However, if you hide your faith, if there is no cost to your faith, do you really have faith? Luke 6:22ff Rev 3:16
  - iv) If no one around you knows you are a Christian, you are doing something wrong.
  - v) Remember the fierce promise of our Lord, "*But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.*" - Matthew 10:33
- f) The main message of Revelation is the call to the church to remain faithful.
  - i) The glories in heaven are reserved for the faithful.
  - ii) Which we see in the next verse.

- 6) *"They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb"* - Rev 7:14
- a) White robes are the sign that we have been made clean before God.
  - b) In this life we have been fully justified and adopted in God's sight, which is by grace alone, through faith alone, on account of Christ alone.<sup>1</sup>
  - c) True saving faith, however, will cause one to remain faithful.
    - i) Again, this is arguably the main message of Revelation.
    - ii) I think that is why it reads *"they have washed . . ."*
    - iii) Faith is all of grace, not of works.
    - iv) We are called to labor hard to remain faithful, which is solely by grace.
  - d) This is the heart of sanctification (the life long walk of holiness that follows our justification that we daily die to sin and live for Christ) to remain faithful. Rom 5:1ff  
Phil 2:12-13
    - i) Isaiah 26:2 - *"Open the gates, that the righteous nation may enter, the one that remains faithful."*
    - ii) Hebrews 4:10-11 - *"For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience."*
  - e) As Revelation repeatedly tells us: Rev 13:10; 14:12
    - i) Revelation 17:14 - *"These (demonic forces) will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him (i.e. remain faithful) are the called and chosen and faithful."*
    - ii) The Lord Jesus put it quite directly: *"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."* – Revelation 2:10
  - f) If we remain faithful, by God's grace, we will be not just declared perfect (justified, adopted) in this life but also made perfect (glorified) in the next.
- 7) One of the key signs of faithfulness is whether you are in the church, Christ's spiritual body on earth, or not. John 17:1ff; 1Cor 12:27; Col 1:18, 24  
Eph 1:22-23; 4:12; Heb 13:17
- a) How can you claim Christ and:
    - i) Forsake being in His spiritual body, the church?
    - ii) Forsake the worship of Him? (If you have no desire to worship Him, with His saints on earth, why would you want to worship Him forever with the saints in heaven?)
    - iii) Forsake the means of grace by which He feeds His sheep, i.e. the preaching of the Gospel and the sacraments and commands us to partake?
    - iv) Rebel against His appointed leaders (Apostles as found in the Bible and elders as appointed in His church)?
  - b) The promises of Revelation are glorious and true, however, they are for those who remain faithful.

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<sup>1</sup> Gen 15:6; Ps 143:2; Is 43:7; 46:13; 53:10-12; Hab 2:4; Matt 16:16-17; Mark 10:52; 16:16; John 1:12-13; 3:16-18; 5:24; 6:28-29; 8:24; Acts 8:22; 10:43; 13:39; 14:6; 15:10-11; 16:14,31; Rom 1:16-17; 3:20-28; 4:3-5; 5:1; 9:30; 10:4-6,9; 11:6; Gal 2:16,21; 3:5-6,11,14,22-25; 5:4; Eph 1:5-8,13; 2:8-9; Phil 1:29; 3:4-11; 1Tim 1:16; 2Tim 1:9; 2:25; Titus 3:4-7; Heb 10:38; 11:7,38; 12:2; 1Pet 1:5,21; 1John 5:1,13.



- c) To quote the Lord Jesus, *"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* – Revelation 3:19-22
- d) In the end there is only one relationship that is eternal. Matt 22:30
- i) It is not family, friends, colleagues, or nations.
  - ii) It is those in Christ, His brothers and sisters by faith in Him.
  - iii) Those other relationships are important and a blessing from God.
  - iv) And you will love your neighbor better the more you love God.
  - v) However, in the end, only Christ's church will go on forever.

## **The Glories of Heaven**

- 1) For the saints, the faithful ones made holy, glory awaits.
- a) Both at death in this life when we go to heaven and when we get our perfect new bodies in the age to come.
  - b) We have heard of these promises before as we have been going through Revelation, however, let us never tire of hearing of the hope that awaits us!
- 2) What is heaven like?
- a) We will be *"before the throne of God"* – Rev 7:15  
We are the King's men.
  - b) We will be *"serv(ing) God day and night"* – Rev 7:15
    - i) "Serving" here is one of the many words for "worship."  
Focused on ministering, serving, performing religious duties. Rev 22:3
    - ii) As we talked about last week, "serving" and "worshipping" someone sounds terrible to us hyper individualist moderns.
    - iii) We never realize our culture is telling us to worship ourselves.
    - iv) In the end, the question is not "will we worship something/someone."
    - v) The question is "what/who will we worship?"
    - vi) If the creation (including the self) then death and despair.
    - vii) If the Creator then light and hope.
  - c) We will be *"in His Temple"* – Rev 7:15
    - i) Remember the Old Testament Temple is frequently called "God's House."
    - ii) The church in this age is the Temple where the Holy Spirit dwells in a special way.
    - iii) In heaven, we are finally home.
    - iv) God enthroned spreads *"His tabernacle over"* us. Rev 7:15  
We now take up residence with God.
  - d) We *"will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore"* – Rev 7:16
    - i) The sun will not beat down on us, nor will there be any heat. Rev 7:16

- ii) All sin, internally and externally, has been removed.
- iii) There is no more suffering or want.
- e) Because the Lamb is "*in the center of the throne*" - Rev 7:17
  - i) Christ will shepherd/pastor us. - Rev 7:17
  - ii) Christ will guide us "*to springs of the water of life*" - Rev 7:17
  - iii) God the Father "*will wipe every tear from*" our "*eyes*" - Rev 7:17

## **Conclusion**

- 1) What a glorious place to end!
- 2) I hope this series on Revelation has been a blessing.
  - a) Bringing clarity on a very hard book to understand.
  - b) Bringing conviction to remain faithful.
  - c) Bringing encouragement that God the Father, through Christ, is working out His sovereign plan.
    - i) That though there is suffering in this life, it is part of God's purpose, for His glory and our (the church's) good.
    - ii) Because we know who wins in the end – we have been told!
  - d) For He is with us now and always.
  - e) And heaven awaits.
- 3) However, have we missed something?
  - a) How many seals are on the scroll?  
(Answer: 7)
  - b) How many seals have been opened thus far?  
(Answer: 6)
- 4) We need to do one more sermon, and peak briefly into the next section, Revelation 8-11, to deal with the 7<sup>th</sup> seal.
- 5) For now, let us go to the King's Table and taste His grace.
  - a) Our hope is not in ourselves but in Him.
  - b) "*If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.*" – 2Timothy 2:13
  - c) In the Supper, Christ's mercy and forgiveness are proclaimed to us which we receive by faith alone.
  - d) Revelation 19:7-10 describes the perfect communion we will have with God.

*"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, 'Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'"*