



WELCOME
to the International Baptist Church
of Prague

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

A scenic landscape featuring a range of snow-capped mountains in the background, a dense forest of evergreen trees in the middle ground, and a calm lake in the foreground that perfectly reflects the mountains and trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue. Overlaid on the center of the image is the word "SERMON" in large, bold, yellow capital letters.

SERMON



**“The Bride of Christ”
Revelation 19 & 21**



the revelation
of Jesus Christ

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- ❑ **Intro to Revelation**
- ❑ **John exiled to Greek island of Patmos during the persecution of the Roman Emperor Domitian**
- ❑ **Written about A.D. 95-96**
- ❑ **Genre: apocalypse**
- ❑ **Not primarily to figure out date of Christ's Second Coming**
- ❑ **giving hope to people in a time of trial and suffering pointing to hope, usually in the context of the end times**
- ❑ **Luther: "A revelation should be... revealing"**
- ❑ **Revelation of Jesus Christ = Revelation of Jesus by Jesus**
- ❑ **Revelation 1:8 points to Exodus 3:14 – LORD = Yahweh – יהוה – "The God who is, and was, and is to come"**
- ❑ **Clear representation of Trinity and heavenly worship**

Revelation 19:5-10

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

‘Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.’

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

Revelation 19:5-10

⁹ Then the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’

And he added, ‘These are the true words of God.’

¹⁰ At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.’

Revelation 19:6-10

- **v. 6 – YAHWEH our God reigns**
- **v. 7 – Bride of Christ =
the Church**

○ **But what is the “church?”**

What is the “the church?”

- **kostel – St. Ludmila at Mirák – church building**
- **církev – abstract idea or institution; Církev bratrská or Roman Catholic Church**
- **sbor – congregation; lit: choir; “church at Ephesus“**
- **ἐκκλησία/ecclesia – all of these; the Body of Christ**

What is “the church?”

- Oliver – “You mean the place where we worship Jesus and someone explains God’s Word?”
- “Wherever we see the word of God sincerely preached and heard, wherever we see the sacraments administered according to the institution of Christ, there we cannot have any doubt that the church of God has some existence, since his promise cannot fail, ‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them’” (Matthew 18:20)

---John Calvin,

The Institutes of the Christian Religion, 4.1.9

Why use the name “bride?”

- Language of intimacy
- Marriage relationship is most intimate of human relationships
- Biblical examples: Hosea & Gomer, Song of Solomon (marital love; God & Israel; Christ & the church);
- Ephesians 5:31-32 – ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Revelation 21:1-5

¹ Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a **bride** beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death” or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’

Why use the name “bride?”

- **Church = Holy City of Jerusalem**
- **v. 2 - Body of Christ = the Bride**
- **v. 3 – “Look! God’s dwelling-place is now among the people”**
 - **God care about us intimately – He wipes away our tears**
 - **Unique to Christianity: Islam - God is hyper-transcendent; Jehovah’s Witnesses – paradise on earth; Mormonism – we can become gods**

Who is in the body of Christ?

- **Romans 10:13** – “For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
- **Ephesians 2:8-10** – „⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- **SOLA SCRIPTURA** – Only by Scripture
God has revealed Himself and His will to us
- **SOLA GRATIA** – Only by grace
Salvation is God's work alone; we can't add to it
- **SOLA FIDE** – Only by faith
Faith is not a power; it is ultimate trust; it has an object – Jesus!; faith is a gift (v. 8)
- **SOLUS CHRISTUS** – Only by Christ
Christ alone is the Savior – no one (neither us nor saints) can add to His work.
- **SOLI DEO GLORIA** – To God alone be the glory!
God alone is the Savior; no one else gets the glory – not angels (19:10), not angels and not Mary! (dulia vs. latria in Catholicism)

What is the purpose of this intimacy with God?

- **Two works of the Holy Spirit**
 - Inner work of sanctification – intimacy with God and conforming to the image of Christ
 - Outer work of empowerment – Ephesians 5:18
- **John 17:3 – “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”**
- **Westminster Shorter Catechism – What is the chief end of a human being? To love God and enjoy Him forever.**
- **Ephesians 2:10a - “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works”**

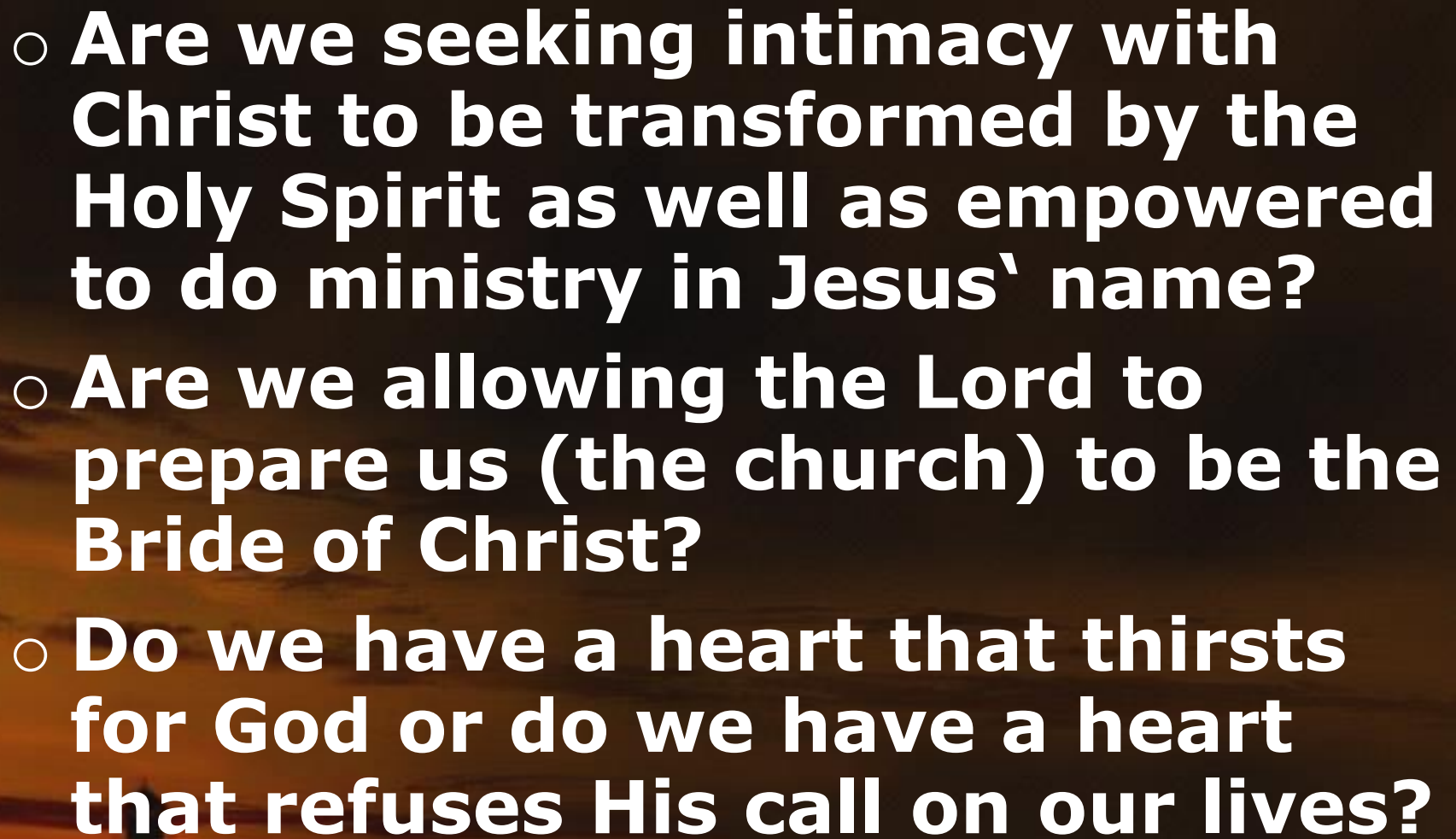
The Two Works of the Holy Spirit

- **Sanctification and Empowerment**
- **What is the danger in not cultivating both of these works in our lives?**
 - **The Book of Judges**
 - **Gideon – greatly used by God, but then did most spiritual damage by combining worship of the LORD with Canaanite religion**
 - **Jephthah – sacrificed his daughter**
 - **Samson – refused the call of God on his life**

Intimacy with God

“It does sound odd, but intimacy with God is exactly what the modern heart is thirsting for. We have come to think of God in abstract, intellectual terms, but the God of the Bible is a living God who is passionately interested in each one of us. What intimacy looks like is spending time with Him – even ‘wasting time’ with Him, like you do someone you love – in prayer, in reading the Bible, in adoration. As we get closer to God, we begin to identify with what is on His heart. And God gives us the power to do the things that are on His heart, which includes bringing healing to the lost, the broken, and the wounded.”

**---Dr. Mary Healy, Sacred Heart Major Seminary,
Detroit, Michigan (USA)**

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- A sunset over a body of water with a lighthouse silhouette. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark brown. The water is dark with some reflections. A lighthouse is visible on the left side of the image.
- **Are we seeking intimacy with Christ to be transformed by the Holy Spirit as well as empowered to do ministry in Jesus' name?**
 - **Are we allowing the Lord to prepare us (the church) to be the Bride of Christ?**
 - **Do we have a heart that thirsts for God or do we have a heart that refuses His call on our lives?**

To
God
be the Glory!