**Revelation 15 – December 24**

We’ve reached the final set of judgments (aren’t you glad?). These are known as the “bowl” judgments and they are described in chapters 15-16. Chapter 15 provides a bit of a back story for the unleashing of these judgments in 16. So, in keeping with the text lets dive in!

The text focuses primarily on the character of God. in fact, verses 3-4 describe a song of worship to the lamb which records His motive for these judgments. Verse 4 states “you alone are holy”. The holiness of God is what demands the judgment of God but I want you to understand that this holiness and judgment is not in conflict with the goodness of God. in fact, God’s goodness demands His wrath. You see, if God attempted to be “good” without punishing evil he wouldn’t be “good” at all! God cannot and will not accept sin in His creation without appropriate punishment and this is a very good thing.

If God were able to simply look the other way at corruption or if God were willing to violate His perfect standard then we would be in a mess. Think about it, what standard would hold God to keeping His Word if He were not holy? How would we trust what He says? How would we rest in doing good even if it doesn’t seem to work itself out?

Furthermore, if God were simply to allow evil in His presence what would differentiate this fallen life from the one that is to come? How would we enjoy an eternity in heaven with evil and good mixed together? What would cause and elicit such praise in our hearts if God were just a stronger version of us? I’ll answer, nothing but fear!

The kind of praise God commands is different than the kind levied towards the Antichrist because the Antichrist is just receiving praise for being a more developed, powerful version of what already is on this planet. In contrast, God is “holy” or set apart. He is totally different and therefore worthy of our praise and honor.

However, His holiness demands His judgment. God cannot and will not look upon what is evil in this world without taking appropriate action. He is simply bound by His character to move on behalf of what is true and His righteous standard and this is why the praise in chapter 15 is connected to the judgment of chapter 16. God’s judgment is a necessary outworking of His holiness and therefore they work in concert to fulfill God’s good and perfect plan for this world.