

## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> April 29, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> Revelation 20: 11-15
<b>Topic:</b> Preparing The Way of The Lord...The Day of Reward	

If the question was posed, what would our response be concerning the time we spend considering the end of our ways? As the Jamaican proverb says, “You cannot plant peas and expect to reap corn.” In other words, the course we take will determine our reward. The Book of Revelation is a challenging book to understand. However, it is a valuable book with many comforting words. In the main, it can be considered **apocalyptic** (*revelation of the sure purpose of God in history*) literature. But there are elements that would cause it to be seen as **prophecy** (*foretelling and telling forth the plan of God*). It could also be seen as an **epistle** (*letter of encouragement and instruction to a church or churches*).



G.R. Beasley-Murray in his commentary on the Book of Revelation says the following:

(a) “*John’s vision of the end is that of an impressionist artist rather than the pictures of a photographer. For the most part they defy precision in application. But they convey sufficient to warn men of the end of state-idolatry, and enough about the kingdom of God, to encourage them to faith and adoration of God.*” [Page 23]

(b) “*...why the Revelation was written. It was not written in order to hold threats of damnation before sinners, but to encourage sinners to press on, despite opposition, and to win the inheritance.*” [Page 27]

The materials as presented in Revelation do not necessarily follow a sequence but rather random images to evoke the right response. We discover therefore that the call is to the:

- ◆ fear of God
- ◆ the fairness of the facts before God
- ◆ the folly of flight from God
- ◆ the freedom of salvation in God

Verse 11 speaks of Awesome Presence where creation is left to flee. This should cause us to consider our reverence for God and we must understand that there will be no Higher Person. The fact is that God is God.

In Verse 12 we see Accounts Presented where creation was left to the facts. This should cause us to ponder our record before God. There will be no ‘high-profiling’ because man is man.

Verse 13 addresses the All-Inclusive Parade of the dead, where creation is left to stand face to face. We must consider our running from God and we must understand there will be no hiding place. Judgment is Judgment.

Verses 14-15 speak of Accepted Pass, where creation is left with fire. This should cause us to consider our redemption by God and we must understand that there will be no Heaven without pardon. Salvation is Salvation.

There is a Day coming which will reveal the extent to which we have yielded to the pleas, encouragements and even warnings to live a life pleasing to God. Let us now seek to make straight that which is crooked and run for refuge where it may be found.