



## Midweek Meditation



*"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Rev. 7:14*

Yesterday we celebrated the Reformation; today All Saints. Yesterday was the church militant; today the church triumphant. Going from one day to the next, for us, is easy. We simply flip the page in our calendar. But in reality, going from the church on earth to the church in heaven is a struggle.

*"Through much tribulation,"* is how the Scriptures put it. The tribulation comes because we are now a part of the church militant. We're in the fight. Our struggle is against the powers of darkness. And we must fight. If we choose not to fight against sin, then we are not truly part of the church militant, and we will not be part of the church triumphant. Christians must struggle, for Christ struggled. Our Head was crowned with thorns. Our Head suffered for us. He died on a cross. But He rose again. Christ triumphed. For us to join Him, as part of His triumphant church, we first must pass through the struggles and sufferings here.

But listen to the cry of those who did endure. *"Oh, what their joy!"* The saints triumphant now rest from all their labors. They kept the faith. They confessed their Lord even unto death. This is not to their credit. It is by God's grace alone that they turned the page from the church militant to the church triumphant. And it is by God's grace that we will turn that page one day. To Him be the glory forever!

*"Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest; Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!" Keep us, O Lord Jesus, in Your church now so that we join Your church in heaven when that page is turned. Amen.*