

# The Whole Counsel



**“For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” ~ Acts 20:27**

## Our Future With God

(Article 12, The Confession of Faith of the Evangelical United Brethren Church)  
We believe all people stand under the righteous judgment of Jesus Christ, both now and in the last day. We believe in the resurrection of the dead; the righteous to life eternal and the wicked to endless condemnation.

### **The Redeemed in Heaven Revelation 7:9-17**

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

## OBSERVATIONS

- ◆ **Our future with God is certain.**
- ◆ **God will remake the whole of creation.**
- ◆ **We are redeemed through the blood of the Lamb.**
- ◆ **We will be with God forever.**

## Further Study *for a deeper understanding*

The following daily readings are available online.

Sunday	The Olivet Discourse	Matthew 24:1-14
Monday	The Day of His Return	Matthew 24:36-44
Tuesday	The Parable of the Talents	Matthew 25:14-30
Wednesday	Our Resurrected Bodies	1 Corinthians 15:35-58
Thursday	The Redeemed in Heaven	Revelation 7:9-17
Friday	The New Heaven and Earth	Revelation 21:1-8
Saturday	The Tree of Life	Revelation 22:1-7

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## APPLICATION *for Daily Living*

### Hope

Hope is a gift that we can develop. Christian hope is different from worldly hope because it is based upon God's unfailing love for us. Our understanding of God's providence gives us a better perspective on life. We are able to build up Christian hope when we meditate on the Scriptures such as Revelation 7.

So whenever you face worldly trials, keep your head up! Focus your attention on the wonderful future you have with God. This perspective will carry you through.

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## QUESTIONS *for discussion*

**Do you consider yourself more of an optimist or a pessimist?**

**What would your life be like without trouble?**

**In what ways can you sense God at work in your life now?**