

**Revelation #56****September 17, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: Living In the Light of the Knowledge of Christ's Imminent Return, pt 1; Revelation 22:6-12**

I'm certain that Paul had in mind the entirety of the Old Testament when he wrote in Romans 15:4 which says, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." And, I think we could safely say that everything written concerning the future is written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Revelation we might not lose hope.

For many, hope is a fragile thing. If we lack endurance we become weary and may lose hope. When we tire of disappointments and if things don't go our way, or if we have temporal desires that are not met we lose hope. When times get hard; when your spiritual well seems to be drying up; when the cupboards are bare, and the dollar won't purchase as much as it used to, we often lose hope. When governing officials disappoint and fail to deliver we may lose hope. Loss of hope may occur when a long anticipated venture falls short of the desired success. Hope is fragile.

But, most of the time the reason our hope fails is because we were hoping for, and depending on the wrong things—temporal things.

The Scripture, says Paul, was written to promote our spiritual endurance and to give us enduring encouragement. Surely we can glean from Scripture at least two things that teach us: 1) That the things of this world, and dependence on the things of this world, in hopes that these things would provide lasting pleasure and fulfillment will always disappoint and fail. And, 2) God alone is the source for human fulfillment and joy; that from God alone flows all the rivers of joy and meaning in life, both in this life and for eternity!

From the New Testament we are given one word of encouragement after another so that we, the redeemed of God, would be faithful, enduring the trials of life with fervor and zeal. Countless promises spoken by the Lord Jesus in the four gospels are written that we might believe in Him, trust in Him and hope in Him. In the Acts the Church engages in exploits of valor, for it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that the Church faithfully preaches Christ to all the known world! In the epistles we learn Christ and His ways and are given words of encouragement and many vital admonitions to stay faithful to Christ in spite of many hardships and difficult toils. And in the Revelation we are given promise after promise that the Lord is coming for His people to take them to be with Him, where He is, forever!

We are nearing the conclusion of our study in Revelation. And as we enter the last few sermons it is my hope that you will be encouraged to think about your life. Is your hope in His imminent return growing? If it is growing, how is that hope expressed in your daily life? I think the teachings of Revelation 22:6-12 are intended to motivate you and me to express our hope in four ways: 1) Our hope is expressed by our

keeping the words of this book of the Revelation; 2) Our hope is expressed by our true worship of God; 3) Our hope is expressed by our clear proclamation of the message of Revelation; and 4) Our hope is expressed by our purity, and our service before Christ.

**\*\*A note before we look closely at these verses. Most commentators see Revelation 22:6-21 as the epilogue of the book of Revelation. The epilogue concerns believers in 22:7-12 and how they should live in light of the imminent coming of Christ, the Son of God, and unbelievers in 22:13-21, inviting them to come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ before it is too late. What a merciful God!**

# I. (22:6-7) Hope is expressed by keeping the words of this book of the Revelation

- A. (22:6) The same angel who spoke in 21:9 speaks to John concerning the words of this book. More like a big picture statement including all of Scripture!
  1. You can trust the book of Revelation! This verse is a glorious declaration that the words John received in the Revelation were faithful and true.
    - a) In 21:5 John is told to write what he sees because the words are faithful and true.
      - (1) The words faithful and true are **titles given** to the Lord Jesus in 3:14 and 19:11.
    - b) The words John received are the faithful and true words of God **and will come to pass just as he has been told!**
      - (1) The words are to be understood plainly. They mean what they say.
  2. The angel underscores the reality that the same God who spoke through the spirits of the prophets (OT) predicting the career of Messiah (first and second coming), is the same God who sent His angel to show His “servants the things that must soon take place.”
    - a) This would mean the apostles are number among these servants
      - (1) See for example Rom.1:1; Gal. 1:10; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:7, 4:7; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude :1
      - (2) And also His servants (believers) mentioned in Revelation
        - (a) Including John in Rev. 1:1
        - (b) The pastor and believers in Thyatira (Rev. 2:19,20)
        - (c) More servants in Revelation (7:3; 11:18; 15:3; 19:2,5)
        - (d) I would also include the angels as messengers of God.
    - b) Truth: the book of the Revelation is Scripture– the Word of God
      - (1) The words of the book are faithful and true and are to be trusted and believed. It is not an option!
- B. (22:7) The Lord Jesus speaks. He is the One who is coming soon! He speaks!
  1. His coming
    - a) Soon, or quickly
      - (1) Refers to “just at the right time”. God has an appointed time
        - (a) Just like Christ’s first coming: See Galatians 4:4

(b) Just like His sacrificial death: See Romans 5:6

2. His Blessing: "Blessed"

a) This is the sixth of seven blessing, or *beatitudes* of Revelation

(1) The other blessings in Rev. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:14

3. Blessed are those who keeps/ *heeds* the words of the prophecy of this book

a) Keeps: he who holds securely too, or guards, carefully obeys.

(1) Same word used in Rev. 14:12 describing the saints who persevere in keeping/ obeying the commands of God and their faith in Jesus in the midst of terrible tribulation.

b) The person who guards and defends the Revelation will be blessed.

(1) This means that you are to stand your ground and defend this *book* when people deny, down play, distort, or falsely interpret it.

(a) Hold fast to the truth revealed.

4. What *words* of this *book* are you to heed/ keep/ obey and work into your mind?

a) Long for His return and our eternal life with Him (mindset)

b) To desire heaven and holiness (lifestyle)

c) To yearn for Christ to vanquish His enemies and vindicate His Name.

d) You should desire to find out what pleases Him and flee from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life! (obedience)

e) Imitate Christ, yearn to be made like Christ (sanctification)

5. Truth: "God inspired Revelation for one purpose: to reveal the glory of His Son and call believers to live godly, obedient lives in light of His soon return."

(MacArthur)

a) Have you taken heed to the words of this book? If so, how are you living differently now than before Revelation? If not, why not?

(1) The OT prophets prophesied and warned Israel to listen and take heed to God's word. They neither listened to it, guarded it, or obeyed it. **Consequently**, the majority missed the first coming of Christ because they didn't pay attention! Take a lesson from them and learn to **heed** the words of the prophecy of this book!

(2) **2 Peter 3:11-12a, 14**: "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and hasten its coming. ... So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him."

(3) **1 John 3:2-3**: "Dear friends, now we are the children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

- b) **PRN:** Hope in Christ's imminent return is expressed in a Christ-like lifestyle that comes from keeping the words of the prophecy of this book!

**II. (22:8-9) Hope is expressed by the true worship of God**

A.

**III. (22:10-11a) Hope is expressed by clear proclamation of the message of Revelation**

A.

**IV. (22:11b-12) Hope is expressed by purity and service before Christ**

A.