

Revelation #59

October 8, 2023

Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon

Today's Message: Responding to the Majesty of the Glory of Christ, pt 2; Revelation 22:12-21

I loved the message from last week. We only covered 22:12, but it was so rich and full of good spiritual food for our benefit! God is so good to fortify our faith with promises!

We noticed two promises in our study: j1) The promise directly from the Lord Jesus Christ when He said, "Behold, I am coming soon!" And, 2) as He continued, "My reward is with Me, and I will give to each person according to what he has done."

I was so encouraged as I preached to remember that the promise of Christ's imminent return is given to us that we would prepare ourselves for His return, waiting eagerly, expectantly, energetically and empathetically. It was a great blessing for me in our afternoon prayer time to hear our young adults contemplate these points and pray, asking for wisdom, understanding and help in order to carry out the spirit of the "wait-commands". One of the young men asked the Lord to help him understand how he can both wait patiently and eagerly at the same time. What a thoughtful prayer! That's one way to wrestle with points in a sermon that you find challenging: Ask the Lord! I love that! It encourages me!

We touched on the promise of rewards— the rewards Jesus is bringing with Him when He returns. This is a reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ. For when the Church is raptured, or caught up to meet Him in the air (1 Thess.4:16,17), there will be no delay in the giving of rewards for things done while living on earth as a believer and follower of the Lord Jesus. As Jesus says in 22:12, "I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

The Judgment Seat of Christ is not often mentioned because it has been confused with the final judgment referred to in Revelation as the Great White Throne Judgment. The good news of the Gospel of God is that believers will not stand at the Great White Throne of Judgment because our sins have been judged in Christ when He shed His own blood on the cross. What this means is that He suffered on the cross both the wrath of God and separation from God (death). As He hung on the cross God laid on Him the full weight of the guilt of all our iniquities (Is.53:6b). God crushed Him, punishing Him with the full fury of His wrath. And Jesus died: the Just for the unjust; the righteous for the unrighteous.

So, the Judgment Seat of Christ (the Bema) is a judgment NOT of condemnation but of rewards for those who have been born again by the Spirit and believed on the Name of the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Bema is serious and not to be ignored because as we read in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 every work and every word will be made known and will be tested. The verses read as follows:

"If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. I will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, **he will suffer loss**; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames."

But it is not a judgment of condemnation. Clearly, there will be a sense of loss of reward, but there will not be condemnation nor a loss of your position as a redeemed child of God whose sins were judged in Christ on the cross!

These promises in 22:12 are to encourage us to be alert, be ready, be faithful and to live for Jesus, spending our energies for Him. Why? Because He is the Lord!

Let's move onto the final Blessing of Revelation. He who has ears let him hear!

I. (22:14-15) Hear the Blessing of Jesus for everyone who responds to Him in the obedience of faith

A. Blessing! The last beatitude of Revelation! From Promise (22:12) to Beatitude (22:14).

1. *The homestretch of Revelation was "written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope!"*

B. The Seven blessings (Beatitudes) in Revelation:

1. (1:3) The Blessing to those who read and those who hear the words of the prophecy of Revelation.
2. (14:13) The Blessing to those who die in the Lord during the Tribulation period.
3. (16:15) The Blessing to those who "stay awake and keeps his garments with him."
4. (19:9) The Blessing to those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
5. (20:6) The Blessing to everyone participating in the first resurrection.
6. (22:7) The Blessing to those who "keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
7. (22:14) The Blessing to those who wash their robes.
 - a) Other translations say, "those who do His commandments."

C. Who are the blessed ones? "Blessed are those who wash their robes." **OR** "Blessed are those who do His commandments."

1. The Blessing or Beatitude is to those who do His commandments. What are His commandments?
 - a) Since Christ has come the first time, It is commanded by God that we believe on Jesus. In other words, the Gospel is a command to be obeyed.

(1) 1 John 3:23 is rich in this truth!

(a) "And this is His commandment: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us."

b) Believing on Jesus means that we in essence die with Him.

(1) Colossians 2:12-13: "...having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ."

(2) The blood of Christ, which was shed for you, washes away the guilt and stain of all your sins!

2. The Blessing, or Beatitude is for those who “wash their robes”. John MacArthur sees the strength of this phrase like this: “That phrase graphically portrays the believer’s participation in the death of Christ.”
 - a) In Revelation 7:14, the angel talks to John about who were the people John saw in white robes, and where did they come from. And the angel said:
 - (1) “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”
 - (a) They **obeyed the commandment to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, appropriating His sacrifice as their sacrifice, and to love one another just as He loved them.**
- D. The Blessing **IS** that they have access to the Tree of Life and the New Jerusalem!
 1. Only for those whose *robes* have been washed in the blood of the Lamb!
 2. 1 John 3:24a nicely merges the idea of obedience to the washing of robes and doing the commandments **INTO** the blessing of having access to the Tree of Life:
 - a) “Those who obey the commandments **live in Him, and He in them.**”
 - (1) TRUTH: Jesus is the Tree of Life!
 - (a) Everyone who believes on Jesus and loves one another out of obedience to Christ **has access to Christ Jesus!**
- E. (22:15) Heaven is **ONLY** for everyone whose robes have been washed in the blood of the Lamb!
 1. All other people are excluded. **EXCLUDED!** That is tragic and very sad.
 2. What is meant by “outside”?
 - a) The lake of fire
 3. Who are these people described here in 22:15
 - a) Everyone “who loves and habitually practices any such sin, stubbornly clings to it, and refuses Christ’s invitation to salvation.” (MacArthur)
- F. Application: Does your heart thrill at the good news that the blood of Christ alone cleanses you from all your guilt, and the stains of your sins? Have you obeyed the commandments of God to believe in the person and work of Jesus Christ, His Son, and to love one another as Jesus commanded everyone who believes? If not, why not?

II. (22:1, 16) Hear Jesus’ own testimony of who He is

- A. First, keep in mind where we are in Revelation.
 1. The Epilogue. The future acts of God have a bearing on the present moment in which we live right now!.
 2. In heaven what we have read is finished. God knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10)!
 - a) “I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’”

B. We see Jesus as He truly is!

1. (22:13) Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
 - a) Christ is Eternal, Infinite, full of "boundless life transcending all limitations" (MacArthur); (see John 1:1-5; Col. 1:15-17; 2:9; Hebrews 1:2-3)
 - b) As far as "time" is concerned learn this:
 - (1) He was in the Garden of Eden in the very beginning of time
 - (a) The *Tree of Life* was in the middle of the Garden.
 - (2) And He will be in the Holy City in eternity when the New Jerusalem descends from heaven!
 - (a) The Tree of Life in the center of the Holy City!
 - c) The First and the Last is a title uniquely ascribed to God
 - (1) Isaiah 46:4: "Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and His redeemer the Lord of hosts I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no other."
 - (2) Isaiah 48:12: "Hearken unto Me, O Jacob and Israel, my called: I am He; I am the first, I also am the last."
 - (3) Revelation 21:6: "It is done! I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End."
 - d) Jesus is fully God; co-equal and co-eternal
 - (1) John 8:58: "Before Abraham was, I AM!"
2. (22:16) The Root and Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.
 - a) Jesus reminds John that He sent His angel to give the Revelation (this testimony) to the churches, especially to "he who has an ear to hear."
 - (1) And, the message goes beyond those seven churches to everyone "who has an ear to hear."
 - (a) Meaning, that it comes to everyone who has an ear to hear down through time and into the Tribulation!
 - b) Root and Offspring of David speaks of Jesus in His humanity as the God-man: Hypostatic union:
 - (1) Root of David (Before David)
 - (a) The God of David
 - (i) This speaks of Jesus' eternal nature!
 - (2) the Offspring (seed) of David (descendent):
 - (a) This speaks of His human nature
 - (3) Jesus posed a riddle to the Pharisees in Matthew 22:41-46 concerning relationship to the line of David as the Root of David:
 - (a) Look up Matthew 22:41-46
 - c) The Bright and Morning Star speaks of His deity
 - (1) He is the *Shekinah Glory of God* shining before the dawning of the Millennial Kingdom. He shines upon all who believe on Him. The world does not know Him or see Him.

(2) But, He is the Bright Morning Star to all who receive Him!