

The Revelation – The Final Chapter

Before I get into today's lesson I want to take a few moments to apologize for the delay in this lesson. As many of you know my wife and I arrived home on June 2 with our daughter. On August 4 my wife went on to be with Jesus, so this last month has really been difficult in getting adjusted. Please keep me in your prayers.

Now in today's lesson we will look at the final chapter of The Revelation, and then in our next lesson we will bring this series to a close with a brief recap. Since much of this chapter is self explanatory I want us to look at the chapter and then discuss the high points. Let's look now at Revelation 22, which says:

- (1) And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.
- (2) In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.
- (3) And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:
- (4) And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.
- (5) And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.
- (6) And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.
- (7) Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.
- (8) And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.
- (9) Then saith he unto me, See *thou do it* not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.
- (10) And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.
- (11) He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.
- (12) And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
- (13) I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
- (14) Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.
- (15) For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.
- (16) I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

- (17) And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
- (18) For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
- (19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.
- (20) He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
- 21) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

This first part of this chapter could easily be titled “The Restoration.” You see, if we go back to the beginning we find that God made everything very good, but man chose to disobey God and the curse came upon all things. In the beginning man was allowed to eat of the tree of life, but because of sin’s separation from God man was no longer allowed to partake. In the end, all things are made new, and man is once again allowed to eat of the fruit of the tree because he has been sanctified by the blood of Jesus.

The remainder of this chapter is the conclusion. Once again Jesus testifies that this is his book, and that the words are faithful and true. He then tells us that we need to keep the sayings of this book. But what does this mean? To me it is apparent that we are to hide these words in our hearts and to be prepared for this time. We are to watch and be sober, for we do not know the day nor the hour when our Lord comes.

Christ also extends an invitation here, one which appears to be universal. “Come,” he says.

Now I think that as we look at the closing of this book we’re also to recognize that he is closing the canon of Scripture. In verses 18 and 19 he says that nothing should be added to or taken away from the Word. I think we need to be very careful today in our study of Scriptures to make sure that we’re taking all Scriptures into account, and recognizing that all are true and do not contradict. We need also to be careful that the Bible that we read includes all Scripture and properly notes where words have been added for clarity. The King James version of the Bible fits this, while many of the newer versions have omitted portions of Scripture or added words without noting that they were added. We’ll discuss this subject in greater detail at another time.

This book ends with a closing remark from John. His desire was that all who read the book would understand God’s graced, even through the trying times ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. John Rich