

REVELATION

Final Warnings

(Revelation 22:11~16)

Daniel 12:9-10: He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand."

Revelation 22:10-16: And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

Daniel looked forward to Christ's First Coming. As we look forward to His Second Coming, the book is not sealed.

As believers, we must constantly seek righteousness and holiness.

1. People must choose how they will respond to God's truth.

- ❖ Revelation 22:11: Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.



1. People must choose how they will respond to God's truth.

A. It might surprise us to see the statements about evildoers doing evil.

- ❖ It's a statement of permission rather than a direct command.
- ❖ Romans 1:24-25: Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

1. People must choose how they will respond to God's truth.

A. It might surprise us to see the statements about evildoers doing evil.

❖ Galatians 6:7-8: Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

1. People must choose how they will respond to God's truth.

A. It might surprise us to see the statements about evildoers doing evil.

- ❖ Timothy George: Apart from eternal separation from God, the most horrible thing about hell is the incorrigibility of those who go there.
- ❖ It is a sad thing to see people hear the truth of the Gospel, but reject it in order to hold on to their sin.

1. People must choose how they will respond to God's truth.

B. Along with this permissive statement, God still invites people to turn to Him.

❖ Revelation 22:17: The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

1. People must choose how they will respond to God's truth.

C. In contrast to unbelievers, we as believers should seek to do what is right.

❖ Revelation 22:11: Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.

❖ 2 Corinthians 5:21: For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2. We should seek to do right because Christ is coming with His recompense.

- ❖ Revelation 22:12-13: Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.
- ❖ Verse 13 reveals Christ as eternal and sovereign in three different ways. Since He is eternal and sovereign, He will accomplish His purpose.

2. We should seek to do right because Christ is coming with His recompense.

A. Christ has the authority both to reward and judge.

- ❖ Recompense: “to return in kind” or “to give something to by way of compensation” (Merriam-Webster)
- ❖ The New Testament uses this word to refer to payment for a job.
- ❖ “Reward” has a positive connotation, and it can refer to a reward. But the word used by itself is neutral.

2. We should seek to do right because Christ is coming with His recompense.

A. Christ has the authority both to reward and judge.

- ❖ Christ will bring His recompense for *all* people.
- ❖ Christ has the authority to reward: He will reward believers.
- ❖ Christ has the authority to judge: He will judge unbelievers who have rejected Him.

2. We should seek to do right because Christ is coming with His recompense.

B. Christ will judge according to our works.

- ❖ As believers, we are saved by grace through faith alone, and we will not lose our salvation.
- ❖ But we will be rewarded or face loss of reward based on how we live our lives.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15: For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

2. We should seek to do right because Christ is coming with His recompense.

C. Christ will repay each one according to his work.

- ❖ Christ's statement in Revelation 22:12 is very personal.
- ❖ Looking back over the last week, how much of what I did will endure when it is judged?
- ❖ Even in the seemingly mundane, we have opportunities to witness and disciple others.

3. The recompense for believers and unbelievers contrasts greatly.

- ❖ Revelation 22:14-15: Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

3. The recompense for believers and unbelievers contrasts greatly.

A. Those who trust in Christ will have the right to the tree of life.

❖ Revelation 7:13-14: Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “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.”

3. The recompense for believers and unbelievers contrasts greatly.

A. Those who trust in Christ will have the right to the tree of life.

- ❖ In Revelation 22:14, washing robes is a symbol of salvation through faith in Christ, since it gives us the right to enter the city and partake of the tree of life.
- ❖ The only reason we can look forward to the New Jerusalem is that we have received salvation through Christ.

3. The recompense for believers and unbelievers contrasts greatly.

B. In contrast, those who reject Christ and live in sin do not have access to the city.

- ❖ Even after the final judgment in Revelation 20, we have several warnings about who will not be in the New Jerusalem.
- ❖ “Dogs” refers to a person of low character who lives in sin.
- ❖ These sins are not unpardonable, but those who continue in sin and unbelief will not enter the New Jerusalem.

3. The recompense for believers and unbelievers contrasts greatly.

B. In contrast, those who reject Christ and live in sin do not have access to the city.

- ❖ These warnings are repeated for a reason. We should take them seriously.
- ❖ We are warned that Christ will bring a recompense for us *individually*. Whether or not that recompense is judgment depends entirely on our individual faith in Christ.

3. The recompense for believers and unbelievers contrasts greatly.

B. In contrast, those who reject Christ and live in sin do not have access to the city.

❖ 2 Corinthians 6:2: Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Christ is coming, and He is bringing His recompense with Him.
- That is a warning to unbelievers, but it is also a warning to believers to aim to live righteous and holy lives.
- *How* do we aim to be set apart and to seek out righteousness?

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Revelation 22:15: Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.
- As believers, we must constantly seek righteousness and holiness.



NEXT TIME:

Revelation 22:17-21

- Final Invitation