

# REVELATION

Final Invitation

(Revelation 22:17~21)

*Revelation 22:17-21: 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. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book; if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.*

The final statement of Scripture  
speaks of God's grace.

We've seen the encouragements  
and warnings, and now we are  
invited to respond to them.

We must receive God's free offer of  
grace.

# 1. The Bible concludes with a free invitation to all to come to Christ.

❖ 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.

A. The Holy Spirit invites people to come.

❖ The New Testament describes the Holy Spirit’s ministry to both believers and unbelievers.

# 1. The Bible concludes with a free invitation to all to come to Christ.

A. The Holy Spirit invites people to come.

- ❖ In the life of the believer, the Holy Spirit:
  - ❖ Regenerates (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5)
  - ❖ Seals the believer (Eph 1:13-14; 4:30)
  - ❖ Indwells (Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19; Gal 4:6)
  - ❖ Sanctifies (2 Cor 3:18)
  - ❖ Comforts (John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26)
  - ❖ Leads (Acts 8:29; Rom 8:14; Gal 5:16-18)
  - ❖ Strengthens/empowers (Acts 1:8; Rom 15:13; Eph 3:16)

# 1. The Bible concludes with a free invitation to all to come to Christ.

A. The Holy Spirit invites people to come.

❖ John 16:8-11: And when he comes, **he will convict** the world concerning **sin** and **righteousness** and **judgment**: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

❖ The Holy Spirit convicts, but also invites people to come and follow Christ.

# 1. The Bible concludes with a free invitation to all to come to Christ.

B. The Bride also invites people to come.

- ❖ Following the Great Commission of Matthew 28, the church invites people to follow Christ and be disciples.
- ❖ The one who hears also invites others.

# 1. The Bible concludes with a free invitation to all to come to Christ.

C. People are invited to freely receive the water of life (cf. Rev 21:6; Isa 55:1-3; John 7:37-39).

- ❖ Water in the desert is extremely valuable, but God offers the water of life *freely*.
- ❖ Mercy always has a cost. Christ has fully paid the cost for salvation.
- ❖ God offers this free gift of salvation. We cannot pay for it, but we are invited to receive it at no cost.



## 2. We are warned to hold Scripture in high regard.

❖ Revelation 22:18-19: I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

## 2. We are warned to hold Scripture in high regard.

A. Warnings like this are common throughout the Bible.

- ❖ Deuteronomy 4:2: You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.
- ❖ Moses repeatedly warned Israel to remember God and not forget, but he also warned them not to distort God's Word (cf. Deut 12:32).

## 2. We are warned to hold Scripture in high regard.

A. Warnings like this are common throughout the Bible.

- ❖ Proverbs 30:5-6: Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.
- ❖ God's Word is true, and those who distort it are proven to be liars.

*Galatians 1:6-9: I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

## 2. We are warned to hold Scripture in high regard.

B. The readers are warned against adding to or taking away from God's Word.

❖ Revelation 22:18-19: I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if **anyone adds** to them, **God will add** to him the plagues described in this book, and if **anyone takes away** from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God will take away** his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

## 2. We are warned to hold Scripture in high regard.

C. We must be careful not to distort God's Word.

- ❖ Revelation 22:18-19 refers specifically to the book of Revelation, although the principle is true of all of Scripture.
- ❖ Joseph Smith literally claimed an angel from heaven gave him a different gospel.
- ❖ Higher critics of the 19<sup>th</sup> century denied essential doctrines such as miracles and the resurrection of Christ.

## 2. We are warned to hold Scripture in high regard.

C. We must be careful not to distort God's Word.

❖ 2 Corinthians 2:17: For we are not, like so many, **peddlers** of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

❖ A “peddler” would often distort a product for his own personal gain.



## 2. We are warned to hold Scripture in high regard.

C. We must be careful not to distort God's Word.

- ❖ The Corinthian believers were in danger of being deceived by these peddlers.
- ❖ We must be careful as we listen to others speak of the Bible and as we study the Bible ourselves.
- ❖ We must hold Scripture in high regard as we study it, even as we acknowledge that some things are hard to understand.



### 3. We are reminded one more time of Christ's coming.

❖ Revelation 22:20-21: He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

A. Christ's final promise is that He is coming again.

❖ This promise has been repeated over and over again to prepare us for Christ's coming.

### 3. We are reminded one more time of Christ's coming.

B. In response, John prays that Christ would come.

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 16:22: If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!
- ❖ “Marana tha” = “Our Lord, come!”
- ❖ Why would Paul insert an Aramaic phrase into a Greek letter written to a church in Greece
- ❖ What is our attitude toward Christ's coming?

### 3. We are reminded one more time of Christ's coming.

C. The message of the Bible concludes with a focus on God's grace.

- ❖ Revelation 22:21: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.
- ❖ God has graciously chosen to reveal Himself and His salvation to us.
- ❖ We should receive His invitation to come and receive that grace.

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

- Romans 2:4-5: Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.
- We must receive God's free offer of grace.