

Rev. 22:6-21 “Final Exhortations”

For the Children: Older children are sometimes left to look after the house while dad and mum go away. There is often a list of things that need to be done around the house while they are away. Less diligent children will leave all those chores until the last minute, just before dad and mum are due to get back. It would be quite a shock if the parents were to come back before they were expected! The Lord Jesus will be coming back unexpectedly – we don’t know when. He has given His children a list of things to do. The main one is to trust in Him for our salvation. But if we do that, we will also want to obey Him in all matters where He has told us His will. **Questions:** How does the Book of Revelation help us to be ready for the Lord’s return? What are the main things you have learned from this Book? What does it mean to “come” to the Lord Jesus?

Introduction:

First Point: The Book Is True

- 1) Not Just Fantasy: Though Revelation is highly symbolic, “these words are faithful and true” (v. 6; compare Dan. 2:45)). The words are properly confirmed by “2 or 3 witnesses” – John (v. 8), the angel who spoke to him (v. 16), and Christ (v. 20). In any case, God is God of the spirits of the prophets; He inspires all they say about past, present and future
- 2) Imminent Truth: Though some of Revelation is about the future, its truth presses in on us now. The idea of these things/Christ coming quickly is stressed in vss. 6,7,10,12, and 20. See also 1:1,3. This doesn’t necessarily mean soon from a human perspective, but from God’s. It does mean He does not delay His planned return. It also means He will come *suddenly*. Everything needed is in place for that to occur *any time!* We must therefore be sure we are ready

Second Point: The Blessings & Curses Are Real

- 1) Real Blessings: Seeing how wonderful the promised blessings are should motivate us to be ready. For Christ comes quickly with His (gracious) reward (v. 12). This reward is given to those who demonstrate by our deeds that we belong to Him; who heed His words; who wash their robes in His blood. Elsewhere in the Book this is put in terms of “overcoming” and “keeping the testimony of Jesus.” The blessing is put in terms of the right to eat freely of the Tree of Life and to enter the Holy City
- 2) Real Curses: The curses of the Book are often put in symbolic terms, but there is a terrifying reality behind those symbols – another reason to be ready for Christ’s sudden return. The curses include: exclusion from blessing (v. 19); isolation outside the city with the despised and unclean “dogs (v. 15); agony like a plague (v. 18). While all unrepented sin will have the same outcome, covenant-breaking by members of the church is especially in view here. Within the church we can find idolatry – even John gives in to it again (vss. 8-9 with 19:10). Within the church we can find adding to and subtracting from God’s Word. These sins bring down Deuteronomic-type curses if there is no repentance. Since Christ is coming “quickly,” lethargic Christians must wake up before it is too late

Third Point: Therefore Act on It

- 1) The Call to Come to Christ: being prepared means, first and foremost, coming to Christ. John’s triple “Come!” parallels Is. 55:1, which calls on God’s people to see their need and to seek living water from Christ. This is one of the main applications of Revelation, to be proclaimed to unbelievers, but above all “for the churches” (v. 16). “Coming to Christ” means a deep desire to know Him and receive salvation from Him. It also means a desire to serve Him. Therefore heeding His words in this Book is stressed (vss. 7, 19). This is also an aspect of “washing their robes”
- 2) According to His Purposes: Sinners can only respond according to God’s sovereign will. His purpose to let those who sin keep on their wicked way will stand. So will His purpose to enable the righteous to keep on doing His will, in preparation for His Son’s coming (v. 11). That obedience is by His grace (v. 21)

Conclusion:

