

Revelation 22

1. The River of Life (Revelation 22:1-5)

- a. The imagery is of paradise regained.
 - i. The Bible begins and ends with paradise on earth.
 - ii. The biblical storyline is creation, fall, redemption, consummation.
- b. The river of the water of life and the tree of life are pictures of Eden (Genesis 2:9-14; 3:22-23; also see Psalm 46:4; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Zechariah 14:8; John 7:37-39).
 - i. The river of life flows from God's throne (v. 1).
 - ii. The tree of life is a blessing to the nations (v. 2).
- c. The curse has been removed from creation (v. 3).
- d. The original purpose for human life has been restored (v. 3-5).
 - i. Worship (v. 3, "His servants will worship Him").
 - ii. Fellowship with God (v. 4a, "They will see His face").
 - iii. Ownership (v. 4b, "His name will be on their foreheads").
 - iv. Dominion (v. 5, "they will reign forever and ever").

2. Final Exhortations (Revelation 22:6-21)

- a. God's Word is trustworthy, true, and relevant (v. 6).
- b. God's Word calls for practical obedience (v. 7, "keeps").
- c. God's Word summons us to true worship (vv. 8-9).
 - i. "Worship God."
- d. God's Word calls for total commitment (vv. 10-17).
 - i. Choose carefully how you will live because it will eventually become irreversible (v. 11).
 1. Ezekiel 3:27; Daniel 12:10; 2 Corinthians 2:15-16
 - ii. Everyone answers to Jesus (v. 12-13).
 - iii. Some are in, and some are out (vv. 14-15).
 1. Dog- Deut. 23:18; Phil. 3
 - iv. True believers desire Jesus above all (vv. 16-17).
- e. God's Word is always perfect as it is (vv. 18-19).
 - i. God tells us in other places that we must not add to or subtract from His Word.

- ii. Deuteronomy 4:2
- iii. Proverbs 30:5-6
- iv. Does verse 19 imply that true believers can lose their salvation?
- f. What does it mean to pray, “Come, Lord Jesus!” (v. 20).
- g. Going forward, we are dependent on the grace of Jesus (v. 21).

David Scott Clark: “Thus we close the book of Revelation so full of solemn warnings, and dire judgments, fitted to fill us all with awe, and to strike fear into the heart of the impenitent sinner. But through all the thunder of doom and the smoke of judgment we read the lesson of hope and cheer. The loftiest optimism grows out of the study of these solemn scenes.

Who can miss the lesson that the enemies of God and of the Church are doomed to fall; but that Christ’s cause is always and everywhere triumphant, that the omnipotent God is on the side of His Church and no weapon formed against it shall prosper; but through all the revolutions and persecutions and dissolutions of earth and time He will bring it off triumphant and present it to Himself as a glorious Church not having spot or wrinkle nor any such thing. Every judgment recorded in the book of Revelation spells victory for the Church of God,—and the end—the beatific destiny of the new Jerusalem where they shall be His people and He shall be their God.”