

Title: Last Words

Text: Revelation 22

Target: Heaven is more than a destination, it's a road trip where the view changes every single day! Every day you will...

I. Rest in Satisfaction: (Vs. 1-3)

- A. **River of Life:** *"bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb"* (Vs. 1)
- B. **Tree of Life:** *"twelve kinds of fruit, yielded its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."* (Vs. 2)

II. Realize in full Illumination: (Vs. 3b-5)

- A. **Worship God:** *"his servants will worship him. They will see His face..."* (3b-4a)
- B. **Marked by God:** *"his name will be on their foreheads"* (Vs 4b)
- C. **Light of God:** *"for the Lord God will be their light"* (5a)
- D. **Rule with God:** *"they will reign forever and ever"* (Vs. 5b)

DISCUSSION QUESTION: For the first time we will see the face of God. Paul gives a glimpse of this in 1 Corinthians 13:12. What is it that makes this possible? Why can we now stand before God and see Him face to face?

As mentioned last week and again this week, the radiance of God's glory will provide all of the illumination that we will need. Have you thought about what that actually means? We know that we will have no sun, but have you considered that there will be no shadows? Even on the brightest day here on Earth, there are still shadows. But God's glory will fill every space. His light will drive out all darkness.

III. Remain in Anticipation: "These words are trustworthy and true" (Vs. 6a)

- A. **There is Prophecy:** *"the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets"* (6a)
- B. **There is Blessing:** *"Behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book"* (Vs. 7)

IV. Reverent in Adoration: (Vs. 8-9)

- A. **Servant of God:** *"I am a fellow servant with you"* (Vs.9a)
- B. **Worship God:** *"keep the words of this book. Worship God."* (Vs. 9b)

V. Relentless in Proclamation: (Vs. 10-11)

- A. **Preach it:** *"Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near."* (Vs. 10)
- B. **Practice it:** *"the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy"* (Vs. 11)

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Think back to the last sermon series over the Ten Commandments. Do you remember the first commandment? Do you remember what Jesus said when questioned what the greatest commandment was? In Verse 9 we see the angel admonish John not to worship him but to Worship God only. God is above all creation. He alone is worthy of our praise and adoration. Is there anything taking the central place in your life and thus crowding out God? In light of this series and our study in Revelation, has worship become a central focus for you?

- VI. **Rewarded through Restoration: "Behold, I am coming soon" (Vs. 12-13)**
 - A. **For our Deeds:** *"bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done"* (Vs. 12)

- B. **By His Divinity:** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end"* (Vs. 13)
- VII. **Rejoice in Justification:** *"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."* (Vs. 14)
- VIII. **Receptive to the Invitation:** *"I am the root of the descendant of David, the bright morning star."* The Spirit and the Bride say "Come" (Vs. 16-17a)
 - A. **To the Exhausted:** *"let the one who is thirsty come."* (Vs. 17b)
 - B. **To the Empty:** *"let the one who desires take the water of life without price."* (17c)

DISCUSSION QUESTION: When you read about the water of life, what immediately comes to mind? Have you ever heard of this water referenced before? Read John 4:1-14. The same invitation is extended to you and me today. If we thirst, we are invited to come! Do you know others that need to hear this good news? If so, make a plan to share with one person this week and report back next week to your group.

- IX. **Results of Misapplication:** *"if anyone adds...if anyone takes away"* (Vs. 18-19)

DISCUSSION QUESTION: This warning is specifically for the book of Revelation. Why would John write such a strong warning here? Why near the end? Could it be that God knew there would be those that would try and distort the prophecy? How then should we handle this book and our new knowledge of its content?

- X. **Ready in Expectation:** *"Surely, I am coming soon!"* (Vs. 20-21)
 - A. **Live Hopefully:** *"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"* (Vs. 20)
 - B. **Live Victoriously:** *"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen!"* (Vs. 21)

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What does the word advent mean? Why do people celebrate with advent calendars at Christmas? As we end this study on Revelation, we find a declaration from Jesus that He is coming again and coming quickly at that. John affirms this and invites His return. As if to say he is ready for Jesus' return. Are you ready? Are you looking forward to His arrival? His second advent!

Take Away: The Revelation series is not coming to a close, it's just beginning! For the season of Advent this Christmas season teaches us that because there was a 1st advent, there will be a 2nd Advent. So, we wait in WONDER!