

Last Invitation

Revelation 22:1-21

I. **Introduction:**

A. **The Book of Revelation**

- *This last chapter of Revelation can be broken into two parts.*
 1. – Description of the New Jerusalem
 - a. Chapter 21 begins with angel giving John a tour of New Jerusalem, this beautiful city
 - b. The New Jerusalem will be the eternal home of the redeemed, those saved by faith in Jesus will live in the New Jerusalem forever. Tour continues in 1st part of chapter 22
 2. – Final invitation
 - a. Then in the final verses of the Bible are God's final invitation. Throughout the Bible God calls the lost to be saved. God has declared the truth of who we are & who He is

B. **Biblical truths**

1. - We are sinners.
 - a. Because we're sinners we deserve judgment. Penalty is spiritual & physical death
2. God is gracious and merciful.
 - a. God the Father gave His only begotten Son to die in our place.
 - b. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin on the cross. All who come to Jesus by faith will be forgiven of their sin and receive from Him eternal life.
 - c. In the end of chapter 22 is God's final offer, His final invitation to come & be saved.

II. **The tour continues. (Revelation 22:1-5)**

A. **River of water of life**

1. Chapter 21 states that the new earth has no seas, oceans, or hydrological system.
2. This river running from the throne of God could be literal form of water, but what it's representing is the important part of what John sees. **"It is the river of water of life."**
3. This river represents holiness & purity which is the eternal state of the New Jerusalem.

B. **The tree of life**

1. Tree was last seen in Garden of Eden. Literal & symbolic combine at the tree of life.
2. Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat of this tree after they sinned lest they should live on immortal in their fallen state. **(Genesis 3:22-24)**
3. God put them out of the garden & set a Cherub with a flaming sword to guard the entrance lest they eat of the tree and become immortal in a sinful state.
4. Couple of things told regarding the tree:
 - (1) – The fruit:
 - a. The fruit seems to sustain physical life forever.
 - (2) – The leaves
 - a. Greek word for "healing" is *therapeia* which English word therapeutic is derived.
 - b. The leaves have a therapeutic effect, but not healing from sickness as there's none
 - c. The better meaning is they promote a greater quality of life.

C. **There is no more curse.**

1. The curse for which John is speaking is the curse of sin.
2. The reason there is suffering, sickness and death in the world is sin, the root cause.
3. In eternity in the new heaven, new earth, & new Jerusalem, there'll be no sin, no curse
4. Therefore the tree of life does not heal from sin or sickness.

D. We will see God, face to face

1. In our perfected state, resurrection bodies, we can dwell in the blazing brightness of His holiness & can have intimate fellowship with our creator serving Him forever.

E. A citizen of heaven

1. The only way to have part in this magnificent city is to be saved by faith in Jesus.

2. If you confess your sin to God, & ask Jesus to save you, then you too can be a citizen of heaven. Then you too can have a place in God's city forever.

III. Final Invitation (Revelation 22:6-13)**A. Last message**

1. – These words are faithful and true.

a. The message of Revelation is true. All John saw & recorded here will come to pass.

b. When the message of this Book is taken literally, the message is crystal clear.

c. Even the symbology is clearly identified to its literal meaning.

d. All that God has revealed to us in this book will literally take place just as He said.

2. Application: The saved, seeing how the world's going today, should be encouraged.

B. Behold I come quickly. (Revelation 22:7)

- *Jesus said His return is "quickly" meaning two things:*

1. – It means sudden.

a. The rapture of the church will happen in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye.

2. – It is imminent.

a. Jesus could come back for His church at any time. The rapture is close.

b. Time is meaningless to God, He is eternal. A thousand years to God is as one day.

C. Our response matters. (Revelation 22:11)

- *The two possible responses to the gospel are illustrated here.*

1. – Those who reject the message

a. Those who reject the message will be hardened in their sin, become a reprobate.

b. Person can become so harden against God that they will never be saved.

2. – Those who accept the message

a. One who hearing the Gospel accepts Jesus, is characterized by obedience & holiness

b. One who hears & accepts Jesus will be saved & begin the process of sanctification.

c. The continuing lifestyle of holiness indicates salvation.

D. Jesus repeats Himself. (Revelation 22:12)

1. This is the 2nd time in this chapter that Jesus said He is coming quickly. (Important)

2. Rewards: The rewards will be given at Christ judgment seat to His faithful in this life.

IV. Closing warning (Revelation 22:14-21)**A. Warnings**

1. – Blessed are those who do His commandments.

a. Those obeying God's commands as life's norm, outwardly give salvation evidence.

b. Blessed are those who are giving evidence of such faith by the way they live.

2. – Those on the outside (Revelation 22:15)

a. The term "dogs" is slang for the vile & wicked. Those giving their lives to the listed sins give indication they're not saved. They will spend eternity in the lake of fire.

3. – The offer (Revelation 22:17)

a. God offers the free pardon of sin to anyone who'll accept it.

4. – Third time! (Revelation 22:20)

a. Three times Jesus said His return will be sudden and it is imminent.