

REVELATION 22

Intro.

1. As we close the year, at least as far as my preaching is concerned, I thought it would be very appropriate to study the last chapter of the Bible.
2. This chapter is a fitting close to the Bible as well as a fitting close to Revelation.
3. In many ways, Revelation ends where it began.
 - a. Revelation 1:1 begins with the source of the book; Revelation 22:6, 16 ends with the same affirmation.
 - b. Revelation 1:1 says these things must shortly come to pass; Revelation 22:6, 10 end the book by saying for the time is at hand and the things which must shortly be done.
 - c. Revelation 1:2 talks of John who bear record of the word of God; Revelation 22:8 ends with and I John saw these things and heard them.
 - d. Revelation 1:3 begins the book with a beatitude that tells us those who keep the words of the book are blessed; Revelation 22:14 contains a beatitude that tells us that those who do His commandments are blessed.
 - e. Revelation 1:5 begins the book telling us of those who have been washed from their sins in the blood of Christ; Revelation 22:14 ends the book with blessed are they that wash their robes.
 - f. Revelation 1:4, 12 begins the book with the seven churches being addressed; Revelation 22:16 ends the book by showing the angel was sent to testify unto you these things in the churches.
 - g. Revelation 1:8 begins the book with the Alpha and the Omega; Revelation 22:13 ends the book with the same.
 - h. Revelation 6, 7, 18 begins the book with amen; Revelation 22:20-21 ends the book with amen.
 - i. Revelation 1:4 begins the book with grace be unto you; Revelation 22:21 ends the book with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
4. What we want to do in this sermon is notice some important things which this chapter emphasizes at the close of inspiration that still benefit us 2,000 years later.
 - I. **We get a glimpse into heaven.**
 - a. Revelation 22:1 – there will be a river of water of life there.
 - i. It is described as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb.
 - ii. The flowing from the throne shows us that it is of divine origin.
 - iii. Think of the polluted streams and rivers of our world.
 - iv. This river is designed to sustain life infinitely so it is called a river of life.
 - b. Revelation 22:2 – the tree of life is there.
 - i. The fruit of this varied and is produced regularly letting us know that our needs will always be met in heaven.

- ii. The healing leaves let us know that there will be nothing that harms there and all of this life's ills will be cured there.
 - c. We learn who will be there as well.
 - i. Revelation 22:3, 5-6 – God the Father will be there.
 - ii. Revelation 22:13, 16 – God the Son will be there.
 - iii. Revelation 22:17 – God the Holy Spirit will be there.
 - iv. Revelation 22:3 – the servants of God are there and they have shown themselves to be His servants by obeying His commands (Revelation 22:14).
 - v. We also see who won't be there (Revelation 22:15, 18-19).
 - 1. The sexually immoral – dogs is a reference to male temple prostitutes who engaged in homosexual acts and fornicators covers all other sexually immoral people.
 - 2. Sorcerers may be those that practice magical arts or this word is where get our word "pharmacy", so it may refer to drug users.
 - 3. Those who placed anything before God in this life.
 - 4. Those who habitually engage in lying.
 - 5. Those who add to or take from God's word in this life.
 - d. Revelation 22:3 - the curse of death and sickness will not be in heaven.
 - i. Man has been under this curse since the sin in the garden.
 - ii. In heaven, that curse is lifted.
 - e. Revelation 22:3 lets us know that we will engage in worship of the Godhead for all eternity – the word translated serve is also translated worship in other places and is translated that way in the ESV in this verse.
 - f. The light of God will be all the light we will need – Revelation 22:5.
 - g. It is a holy city because only holiness is allowed to dwell there – Revelation 22:2.
 - i. Each member of the Godhead is often described as holy in scripture.
 - ii. The angels are likewise described as holy in scripture.
 - iii. The servants of God are also described as holy in scripture.
- II. **The exclusive object of our worship is stressed in this chapter.**
 - a. Revelation 22:9 – worship God.
 - b. To worship anything else is idolatry.
 - c. Br. Wendell Winkler wrote that back then the idols were metal, but now they are mental.
 - i. Humanism – the worship of self.
 - ii. We can worship recreation.
 - iii. Money can be worshiped.
 - iv. Family can become an object of worship.
 - d. We need to remember that we become like what it is we worship (Psalm 115:8).
- III. **This chapter gives us descriptions of the Christ.**
 - a. The Christ is called the Lamb – Revelation 22:1, 3.

- i. The Christ is described as the sacrificial Lamb in the New Testament.
 - ii. John the Immerser, Paul, and Peter all describe Him this way.
 - b. The Christ is called the Alpha and Omega – Revelation 22:13.
 - i. These two are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, indicating first and last or beginning and ending.
 - ii. This same description is used of God the Father in Revelation 1:18 and Revelation 21:6.
 - iii. This proves that the Christ is Deity because it shows equivalence with the Father and also shows His eternity.
 - iv. The Christ always has been and forever will be.
 - c. The Christ is called Jesus – Revelation 22:16.
 - i. The name Jesus means Savior.
 - ii. This shows the role Jesus plays for mankind.
 - d. The Christ is called the root and offspring of David (Revelation 22:16).
 - i. This is a reference to the human nature Jesus possessed while also being deity.
 - ii. This also shows that the promise to David recorded in 2 Samuel 7 was fulfilled.
 - e. The Christ is called the bright and morning star – Revelation 22:16.
 - i. Numbers 24:17.
 - ii. This shows Jesus to be the source of spiritual light (John 8:12 – I am the light of the world).
 - f. The Christ is called our Lord Jesus Christ – Revelation 22:21.
 - i. Lord indicates His sovereignty.
 - ii. Jesus signifies His being our Savior.
 - iii. Christ signifies His divine role as Prophet, Priest, and King.
- IV. This chapter emphasizes the necessity of obedience.**
 - a. Revelation 22:14.
 - b. Revelation 22:9 – them which keep...
 - c. Revelation 22:7.
 - d. This chapter and book talk about the grace of Christ and man's need to be obedient, which goes to show that God's grace and man's obedience go hand in hand together to lead to man's salvation.
- V. This chapter emphasizes the unchanging nature of God's word.**
 - a. Revelation 22:18-19.
 - b. It is sinful to add to or take from God's word because it is complete and unchanging.
 - c. Any change to God's word equals a perversion of God's revelation to man.
- VI. This chapter emphasizes the last invitation.**
 - a. Revelation 22:17.

- b.** The Holy Spirit, through the inspired word of God, and the church, the Bride, extend the invitation of God to men.
- c.** Notice what this implies:
 - i.** Man must be away from God for an invitation to come to be necessary.
 - ii.** God desires man to come to Him or He would not allow such an invitation to be extended.
 - iii.** Man can come or the invitation would be worthless and cruel.
 - iv.** Man will be benefitted by coming because we can drink of the water of life.
 - v.** Man has to do the coming because man left God.
 - vi.** All men are invited to come.

Conclusion

- 1.** Inspiration closed with the penning of this chapter by John.
- 2.** This book promises us the victory over sin when this book is obeyed.
- 3.** We should long for the city described in this chapter.
- 4.** We should more fervently worship the God to whom we belong.
- 5.** We should appreciate even more the great Savior emphasized in this final chapter.
- 6.** We should submit to Him by doing His will and never attempt to change His will in any way.
- 7.** We should invite others to experience the joy we have as Christians.
- 8.** Have you been obedient?
- 9.** Have you remained obedient?
- 10.** The invitation of heaven is extended to you right now.

This is an outline from Wendell Winkler.