

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. (Revelation 22:12)

**I. The River of Life (vv.1-5)**

- a. The city is like a beautiful garden, with one river that flows from the throne of God.
- b. In the garden of Eden there were four rivers: Pishon, Gihon, Tigris, Euphrates. (Gen 2:10-14)
- c. In Eden, man was directed not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and later prevented from eating of the tree of life. (Gen 2:17; Gen 3:22)
- d. In heaven, we will have access to every tree. We will serve and worship God.
  1. Our faithfulness in this life prepares us for higher service in heaven.
  2. As believers, we are seated in heavenly places (Eph 2:1), but in eternity we will reign as kings over the new heavens and earth. We will live **unlimited**, but under the authority of God.
- e. This is the culmination of mankind's identity and destiny.
- f. The assurance of heaven should not lull us into complacency but move us to fulfill our spiritual duties here and now. We live now in a time of preparation and expectation.

**II. Keep The Words and Do the Work (vv.6-11)**

- a. Revelation serves as the capstone of God's revelation and truth to His people; therefore, it should be viewed in light of the entire Bible. John is directed not to seal up the book.
  1. *Keep the sayings* – we are to guard, watch over. (Deut 4:2; Proverbs 30:5-6)
  2. Serve the Lord – obedience to God's Word is a mark of *true salvation*.
  3. *Revelation serves as God's warnings to unbelievers and encouragement to believers.*
- b. A decision is demanded now, in this life. Let every person make up their own mind. (v.10)

**III. Ready or Not, Here I Come**

- a. There is a threefold universal invitation to come to heaven. (v.17)
  1. The Spirit says "come." (John 16:8-9); The Bride of Christ, the Church, calls to humanity to "come."
  2. The individual believer, the one who hears and is thirsty is commissioned to call others to "come."
- b. *I am coming soon* is mentioned three times in Chapter 22.
- c. We should be motivated to live Godly lives because of His coming. (2 Peter 3:11-12)
- d. We should encourage each other because of His coming. (Hebrews 10:25)
- e. We should persevere because of His coming. (1 Timothy 6:12,14)
- f. Are you motivated to say, *Lord, Jesus come quickly?*

**IV. Heaven is More Than a Destination, it is a Motivation**

- a. Nine things that **do not** exist in heavenly eternity:
  1. No more sea - 21:1 -The sea is symbolic of the unknown, restlessness, storms, and separation.
  2. No more death - 21:4 - Death came because of sin.
  3. No more sorrow - 21:4 - All men have sorrow, even Jesus had his share while on earth.
  4. No more crying - 21:4 - This speaks of "sad" things. There will only be joy.
  5. No more pain - 21:4 – Refers to sickness and physical troubles.
  6. No more temple - 21:22 – Heaven itself will be a temple.
  7. No more sun, moon, night - 21:23; 22:5 - The glory of God will continually give light
  8. No more darkness forever - 21:23 – God's presence will be everywhere.
  9. No more curse - 22:3 – Believers will live with the One from who all blessings flow.
- b. Are you ready to give an account? Are you certain your name is in the Lamb's book of life?
- c. If *you* are sure, check with those around you and make sure *they* know their destiny.