

Revelation 22:1-6, 12-20 ESV

# Those Who Know Jesus Are So Blessed!

Sunday, May 8 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, May 9 at 7 PM

Seventh Sunday of Easter – 2016

**Introduction:** Dear friends: Are we blessed now? *By all means!* We have ♣our basic needs, ♣God's gift of forgiveness through Jesus, and ♣God's promise of a wonderful eternity!

1. **Picturing Eternity with God:** *These are some blessings!*

- a. <sup>1</sup> ~~Then~~ [And] the angel showed me ~~the~~ [a] river of ~~the~~ **water of life**, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. // God is our *source of life now* and *forevermore!*
- b. <sup>2</sup> ~~through~~ [In] the middle of the street of the city, ~~also, on either side~~ [and] of the river, ~~the~~ [a] **tree of life** ~~with its~~ [producing] twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month, [and] the leaves of the tree ~~were~~ [are] for ~~the~~ healing of the nations. // Once Adam and Eve fell, *they were kept away from the tree of life*; God did not want them to live forever in the corruption of sin. However, *once all things have been made new*, we will finally eat from the tree of life!
- c. <sup>3</sup> **No** ~~longer will there be anything accursed~~ **[curse will be any longer]**, ~~but~~ [and] the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his ~~servants~~ [slaves] will ~~worship~~ [serve] him, <sup>4</sup> [and] they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. // Sin brought a curse, but, *thru Jesus*, the curse will be gone forever!

d. <sup>5</sup> **And night will be no more, [and] they will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.** // God's amazing glory, *which will never fade*, will provide our light in eternity!

<sup>6</sup> **And he [the angel] said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his ~~servants~~ [slaves] what must soon take place."** ... // Most people in the world are *unaware* of ♦God's truth or ♦what is coming – *with the final judgment*, but God has made it known to us *by the Spirit through His Holy Word!*

2. **Returning of Jesus:** [Jesus said:] <sup>12</sup> **"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me [punishment for the unrepentant – sadly they kept rejecting Jesus; but blessing for the repentant – not because of their goodness, but because of God's grace], to repay each one for what he has done.** <sup>13</sup> **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end [so Jesus has the ability to bring His recompense]."** // Even though many people seem to have little interest in ♦learning the Bible, ♦being sorry for their sins, or ♦knowing Jesus as Savior, He will come soon with just punishments and undeserved rewards! Therefore, *by God's grace*, let us remain ever-ready!

3. **Location, Location, Location:** Where we spend *eternity* is much more important than where we live in this world! <sup>14</sup> **Blessed are those ~~who wash~~ [washing] their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the**

gates. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs and [the] sorcerers and the sexually immoral and [the] murderers and [the] idolaters, and everyone ~~who loves and practices falsehood~~ [loving and making a lie]. // Think about these steps: We ✦ wash our robes and ✦ enter the city *in order to* ✦ eat from the tree of life. So let us know that our robes are *filthy with sin* and only one cleaning product will make them clean – *the holy precious blood of the Lamb!* So, **knowing Jesus**, we are promised the wonderful location, *but everyone else will be in the horrible location*. Let's not miss this point: We **ALL** deserve the horrible location, we have **ALL** fallen short of God's glory, **BUT** we have the wonderful location as *God's gift to us thru Jesus*; He makes all the difference!

4. **Hearing and Sharing the Good News:** <sup>16</sup> "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things [thus, the contents of the book of Revelation] for the churches [for the seven mentioned in chapters 2-3, and all Christian churches]. I am the root and the descendant of David [both his source and his relative], the bright morning star [*As the morning star in the east is the clear proclamation of the coming of a new day so the coming of Jesus into the world brings...the sure promise of the great, new eternal day...*] (Becker, 369)." <sup>17</sup> The [Holy] Spirit and the Bride [the saved ones] say, "Come." And let the one ~~who hears~~ [hearing] say, "Come." And let the one ~~who is thirsty~~ [thirsting] come; let the one ~~who desires~~ [desiring] take the water of life without price. // Notice the three present participles – "hearing," "thirsting," and "desiring," those are ongoing realities! May the Spirit continue to work through the Word in each of our lives so that we continue *hearing, thirsting, and desiring*

God's eternal blessings; then, *let us be confident that He will freely give them to us!*

5. **Embracing All of God's Word:** <sup>18</sup> I [Jesus] warn everyone ~~who hears~~ [hearing] the words of the prophecy of this book [this scroll, of Revelation]: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. // As people we are always rejecting or accepting: As we read or hear, we might say to ourselves, "That can't be true; I reject it," or "I like that, it makes sense; I accept it." Since we are programmed that way, we are tempted to use that approach on the Bible – *but we must not!* Those words apply specifically to the book of Revelation, but, in general, to the whole Bible. Since it is **all** God's Word, *let us embrace **all of it** as true and beneficial!*

**Conclusion:** <sup>20</sup> He [Jesus] who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." [Then John replied:] **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!** // Soon to Jesus is different than soon to us, but now, in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it could be very soon! By God's grace let us *be ready* and *invite others to be the same!*

Let us pray: Dear Father, You know how hard the forces of evil are trying to pull us away, so powerfully keep us in Your holy family! And all God's people said: **Amen!**