

Invitation, Warning, and Ever-Readiness!

Sunday, 2/19 at 8:00 & 10:45

The Transfiguration of Our Lord – 2012

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, today we conclude our *long series* on the book of Revelation! Do you remember the overall theme? **IN CHRIST WE WIN!** Today we come to some key aspects of the book which should guide our Christian lives between now and heaven:

1. **The Book of Revelation Was Given for the Benefit of the Church – for All who Trust in Jesus for Eternal Life:**

¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you [John] these things [the contents of the book of Revelation] for [the benefit of] the churches [the seven churches in chapters 2-3, even all NT churches; therefore, it is important to study the book of Revelation, to reap its benefits]. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” // So why is the book of Revelation reliable? Because of Jesus, *who is both God and Man:*

- a. “the root of David” – The Son of God, the pre-incarnate Christ, *is David’s source of life!*
- b. “the descendant of David” – The Son of Man has David *as one of His greatest ancestors!*
- c. “the bright morning star” – Dr. Becker wrote: “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..." (369)

Therefore, let's keep ♦reading, ♦studying, and ♦benefitting from the book of Revelation!

2. **The Most Wonderful Invitation:** ¹⁷ [And] **The Spirit** [the Holy Spirit] and the bride [the Church, all who trust in Jesus alone as Savior] say, "Come." And let the one ~~who hears~~ [hearing] say, "Come." And let the one ~~who is thirsty~~ [thirsting] come; let the one ~~who wishes~~ [wishing] take the water of life without cost. //
- a. Since most people in the world are spiritually dead, the Holy Spirit, *working through the Word-ministry of the Church*, is calling everyone who is hearing, thirsting, and desiring God's eternal blessings to ♦come, ♦receive without cost, and ♦be forever blessed!
- b. Then, in turn, "the one hearing" – *thus each true believer in Jesus Christ* – also reaches out to others by saying: "Come." Since we have such great blessings in Christ, *we gladly offer Christ to others with five simple words*: Come to church with me! Please identify someone and pray for that person, then finally say: *Come to church with me!*

3. **Rightly Use God's Word or Suffer the Eternal Consequences:** ¹⁸ ↓ [Jesus] testify to everyone ~~who hears~~ [hearing] the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone [there no exceptions] adds to them, God will add to him the plagues ~~which are~~ [having been] written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from

the tree of life and from the holy city, ~~which are~~ [of the things having been] written in this book. //

- a. The Bible is God's Holy Perfect Word; therefore, it *does not need to be changed* NOR *should it ever be changed*. Isaiah wrote: ^{NAS} **Isaiah 40:8** "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." The words in vv. 18-19 apply *specifically* to Revelation, but in *general* to the whole Bible.
- b. The B-I-B-L-E means **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth**. The Bible tells us about ♦God's love, ♦our sin, ♦our Savior, ♦our time on earth, and ♦eternity. God wants us to hear, understand, believe, and benefit *both now and always!*
- c. However, for those who change His Holy Word by **adding** or **subtracting**, God will – *to all such people* – ♦add horrible things or ♦take away wonderful things! Therefore, *let us rightly use God's Word of truth!*

4. **Always Trust in Jesus Alone:** ²⁰ He [Jesus] who testifies to these things [as recorded in vv. 18-19] says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." [Then, John replies:] Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. //

- a. Think about "quickly." If you are seated and someone is running toward you quickly, you are NOT ready to respond NOR do you have the time to respond. Jesus' coming will be *super-quick*; He said: "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be." (Matthew 24:27 NAU)
- b. Since there will be no time to get ready, *it is important to always be ready!* Our readiness is not

about ♦what we think, or ♦how we feel, or ♦what we do; instead, our readiness is about *our faith in*, in other words, *our relationship with* Jesus Christ our Savior! Therefore, knowing that Jesus will come quickly, *let us always trust in Him alone!*

5. **The Wonder of Jesus' Undeserved Love:** ²¹ The grace [the undeserved love] of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. //
- a. Wife, children, and friends, we love them *because they are lovable!* In other words, there are things in them that draw us to take action to help them in various ways.
 - b. However, for us, *when we were open enemies of God*, ♦He loved us, ♦He sent His Son for us, and ♦Jesus died for us! **THAT IS GRACE!**

Conclusion: Now, *as we conclude the Revelation series*, I hope you have →heard, →understood, and →benefitted! Now, *having received God's most wonderful invitation*, let us ♦rightly use God's Holy Word, ♦be ever-ready for heaven through Jesus, and ♦be in awe of Jesus' great love for us! Remember: **IN CHRIST WE WIN!** And all God's people said: *Amen!*