



Sermon Series Notes

“The Soon Coming of Jesus Christ” (Rev.22)

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v.7 See Rev.1:3; Practically speaking it means I respond to the messages in this book; James 1:22; For example, when Jesus rebukes the churches in chapters 2 & 3, and calls them to repent, I repent if those same sins are in my life (sexual immorality, lukewarmness, losing my first love, etc.). It means I don't allow myself to become engrossed in the things of this world, because this world is not my home. And it means I live my life in such a way that I'm always looking and longing for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

vv.8-9 John did this same thing back in Rev.19:10, and we covered that verse in detail several weeks ago, noting how easy it can be to worship something or someone other than God.

v.10 Read it, teach it, preach it, proclaim it.

v.11 This verse has puzzled and even confused some people. It simply means that some will heed the messages contained here and some will not. Some will continue on in their sin, rebellion, apathy, and others will repent & persevere in righteousness. That's just the way it is.

v.12 This is the second time he says his coming is soon, and he adds that when he comes he will distribute rewards based on deeds. More about that later.

vv.14-15 Outside are the unsaved, yet another verse confirming the eternity of the punishment for those who reject the grace of God and the salvation found only in Jesus Christ.

v.16 As the root and offspring of David, we see Christ's divinity and humanity. He brought David into existence (Col.1:16), and yet he also is of the lineage of David (his human ancestry); See Matthew 22:41-46.

The morning star speaks of a brand new day on the horizon; See Rev.2:27-28; II Peter 1:19. Jesus is my hope for a new day coming where there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain (Rev.21:4).

v.17 The invitation; Have you ever invited someone to take the free gift of the water of life? Years ago my wife Wendy cried as she shared with me that she had never shared the gospel with anyone personally; Not long after that she led a young lady to the Lord after an evening church service. She also led one of our young neighbors children to the Lord. He is grown now and has moved away from our neighborhood but he still occasionally stops by our house to say hi.

A brand new believer can share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ; A great example of this is the man born blind that Jesus healed (John 9); The Pharisees kept questioning him about his healing, and he said, “One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

The most important thing any one of us can share with someone is the message of the gospel. I Cor.15:3 gives us the most basic definition of the gospel (read I Cor.15:3).

Rom.1:16-17 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Sharing the gospel is not only the only way that people have the opportunity to be saved, but it's vital to our own personal spiritual growth (Philemon 6).

Inviting people to take of the free gift of the water of life is a ministry every Christian is called to (see II Cor.5:16-21); Have you ever shared the gospel with someone personally?

Why don't some professing Christians ever share the gospel personally? Some are not really saved; Others are fearful (II Tim.1:8-12; I Peter 4:14-16); Some perhaps don't feel they know what to say or how to say it. In Col.4:4 the apostle Paul asks for prayer that he may share the gospel "clearly as I should." I want to help us be able to share the gospel clearly. It's called the "Romans Road."

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10: 9-10 If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Now, as you continue to listen, study, read and meditate on the Word, you will add to your knowledge of Scripture to share. And you will in time need other Scriptures, because people will ask you questions. Not all questions can be answered, so keep the main thing the main thing. But answer any questions you can. By the way, that's one of the ways we grow and gain understanding of every good thing we have in Christ (Philemon 6).

Dan.12:3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars for ever and ever.

You don't have to beat down any doors or shove Jesus in people's face. See Col.4:3. You can pray this prayer, and in God's time he will answer it. But I'm not going to wait for you to pray it, I'm going to pray it for all of us, right now!

Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit (Jesus and the woman at the well, John 4; Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch, Acts 8).

Don't be surprised when suffering or sickness opens a door for sharing the gospel (Acts 16, the Philippian jailer; Gal.4:13, Paul's illness).

vv.18-19 We will cover these verses in detail in our next study.

v.20a This is the third time Jesus says he is coming soon.

v.20b Amen means "so be it," and then the heartfelt prayer "Come, Lord Jesus." Could we say that together? "Amen. Come Lord Jesus."

My son Jairus is getting married next Saturday. He does not want Jesus to come now as badly as I do, and I understand that. But there are some people in this world that want Jesus to come quickly a lot more than I do. See Revelation 5:9-11; 20:4; Isis is fulfilling biblical prophecy in the atrocities it is committing.

Christians suffering and dying in our world want Jesus to come quickly much worse than I do.

This closing chapter has one very clear message - Jesus is coming "SOON." Three times in these brief verses we are told this. If I am not careful I can actually be offended at these three statements. Why?

Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

Peter alludes to Psalm 90:4 in his referring to the end of the world as we know it and the coming of Jesus Christ (see II Peter 3:7-8).

So the delay is to give people a chance to be saved. I understand that, and I'm thankful for serving such a gracious and merciful God. But it's been over 2,000 years and he still has not come. But again, from God's perspective, even if it's another 2,000 years before he comes it would still be "soon."

Even though for the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like a day, I am convinced that he is writing these words in Revelation 22 for us. So this is meant to be understood from our perspective, not God's. He wants us to believe that the second coming of Christ is soon. Every generation has believed that Christ could return in their generation, and that's what God intended. Even those generations that had many pieces of the puzzle missing still believed by faith that their generation could be the last. They trusted that God could fill in the pieces that were missing in a short amount of time as only God can do.

Check out these verses on Jesus' second coming:

He will come suddenly; Luke 17:24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.

He will come when no one expects him to (see Matt.24:36-44)

He will come like a thief (I Thess.5:1-3)

In the middle of the night (Luke 17:34)

In the middle of the day (Luke 17:35)

We will not have time to get ready, we must be ready.

We are raptured prior to Jesus' second coming (Rev.4:1; I Thess.5:1-9; 4:13-18; I Cor.15:50-52).

How do I know that I am ready for Jesus' second coming? See Matthew 24:45-51

- Do I have "sufficient oil" (Matthew 25:1-13)
- Am I investing for his kingdom (Matthew 25:14-30)
- Am I ministering to Jesus by ministering to needy people? (Matthew 25:31-46)

"Any spirituality that does not lead from a self-centered to an other-centered mode of existence is bankrupt." (Brennan Manning)

Blessed are your eyes (Matthew 13:16-17); We are closer to the second coming of Jesus than ever. Let me close with a few reminders of how close we really are.

1. The church age

- Daniel 9:25-27; The rebuilding was completed in a total of 49 years. Anyone needs only to read the book of Nehemiah to understand that the rebuilding was met with great opposition (streets, a trench, times of trouble). The second division is the sixty-two sevens, or 434 years. This was the period between the rebuilding of Jerusalem under Nehemiah and the coming of the Anointed One, Jesus the Christ. Over a hundred years ago in his book, ***The Coming Prince***, Sir Robert Anderson gave detailed calculations of the sixty-nine weeks, using "prophetic years," allowing for leap years, errors in the calendar, the change from B.C. to A.D., and figured that the sixty nine weeks ended on the day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, five days before his death! N.T. scholar Harold Hoehner calculates that the end of the 483 years was on March 30, A.D. 33, the same date he concludes Jesus made his triumphal entry! (Also may see Alva J. McClain, *Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks*: Zondervan, 1969).

- Eph.3; Rom.11:25-27

- The church age ends with the beginning of the final week of Daniel's vision, a seven year period known as "The Great Tribulation," or the time of "Jacob's Trouble."

2. The rebirth of Israel as a nation

- Over 2,700 years ago, God spoke through Ezekiel 37:1-14. Having been brought to the brink of extinction by The Holocaust, and yet in one day Israel was miraculously reborn as a nation.

3. Readiness for the building of a temple in Israel.

- The Temple Institute is ready with utensils for re-establishing worship services, as well as providing Levites to serve for this purpose.

4. We live in the days of modern warfare

- The number of people who will die during the Tribulation is not possible apart from modern weapons of war; See Joel 2:1-5 (note v.5); Rev.9:17-19.

5. The ability for the world to view the two slain witnesses of Revelation 11:7-10.

6. The technology for the mark of the beast (Rev.13:16-17)

7. The increase in knowledge

- Dan.12: 4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

- There has never been a time when people have been able to travel so fast and so often as in our day.

- The computer age/the internet

8. First time in history clear signs for the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38-39.

- See Ezekiel 38:1-5, 8; 38:13.

9. Increased persecution of Christians

- The Tribulation period sees a tremendous increase of persecution of Christians worldwide. So should we not expect as we get closer to this period of time seeing greater persecution?

10. No known prophecy to be fulfilled for the rapture of the church

CONCLUSION

The book of Revelation is meant to do more than stir us emotionally, or inspire us theologically. It is meant to move us to be involved in the business of the kingdom, because Jesus is coming soon!

Only one life, 'twil soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last.

John 9: 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.