

DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): Revelation 22:6-21

Supporting Texts: John 3:15-16; 10:27-30, Romans 8:38-39, Ephesians 4:30; 5:25-26

MAIN IDEA: God's Word changes us, keeps us, comforts us, and guides us.

OBSERVE

In verses 6-7, how are the words of God described and what should that cause us to do? *His words are "faithful and true" and we should keep or obey His words.*

What is the angel's command to John in verse 9? *Worship God.*

Jesus declares in verses 12-15 that upon His coming, He will repay "each person according to what he has done." What does that payment look like? *Those who have "washed their robes" will enter into eternal life with God and those who don't will not enter into eternal life with God. (v. 14-15)*

Jesus' declaration of Who He is (verse 16) should evoke what response from believers? *Jesus, come back!* What response should it evoke from those who don't believe? *To come to Christ and receive the gift of eternal life.*

According to verses 18-19, what actions would result in not going to heaven? *Adding or taking away from God's Word.*

What does Jesus say over and over in this passage? *That He is coming quickly!*

INTERPRET

John is told in verse 10 not to seal up the words of this book. What is meant by this command? *Faithfulness in declaring and teaching God's word is required. The result of proclaiming God's Word will produce two responses to the Word in verse 11: there will be those who reject it and no life change will occur; and there will be those who accept it and allow it to change their lives.*

How does Ephesians 5:25-26 help us understand what Revelation 22:14 means? *Following God (life change) only occurs when we "wash" our lives with the Word, the Gospel. It is the Word of God (not behavioral modifications or moral accomplishments) that changes our hearts and sanctifies us.*

We know that God's Word never contradicts itself. How do John 3:15-16, John 10:27-30, Romans 8:38-39, and Ephesians 4:30 help us understand Revelation 22:18-19? *It is clear that we cannot lose our salvation. Therefore, anyone who deliberately distorts God's Word as a habit of practice truly wasn't a believer to begin with.*

RESPOND

As John ends his apocalyptic writing, he extends several invitations to the reader *all* based on the Word of God. What does he invite the reader to do?

- *Obey God's Word (vs. 7)*
- *Worship God (vs. 9)*
- *Proclaim God's Word (vs. 10)*
- *Accept God's Word (vs. 14)*
- *Desire Christ and His coming (vs. 17)*
- *Honor God's Word (vs. 18-19)*

Reflect upon these invitations. Do they characterize your life and your view of God's Word?

APPLY

Revelation is apocalyptic literature, which is literature filled with symbolism and metaphors to reveal information from God. However, God chose, in His sovereign wisdom, to not reveal everything and when we approach this book with a human focus, we can tend to worry or fret. So, it shouldn't surprise us that God ends Revelation with a huge emphasis on God's Word. How can God's Word bring us comfort, peace, and hope when we feel uncertain or fretful?

We see throughout Scripture that "washing" ourselves with the Word emphasized. How are you "washing" yourself with the Word? Is there anything you need to change in your practices?