

REVELATION: HELP FOR LIVING, HOPE FOR LEAVING AN INVITATION TO LIVE, AND INSPIRATION TO ENDURE Revelation 22:6-21

You sometimes hear people tell others, "get a life!" This is usually said to those who have become so narrow or inflexible, that they no longer enjoy the supposed "better things" of life. Now consider the whole passage before us, as God's version of the same statement: "Get a life . . . the real one. Once you do, endure all the way to the end". But remember that you're not saved because you endured; you endured because you were genuinely saved.

Every person's meeting with God is not only inevitable, it is imminent. Those without God will meet Him in death anytime. Those in Christ meet will Him the same way, or the better way: through the harpazo (rapture) of 1 Thes. 4:16-17. Listen to Christ's invitation to live, and inspiration to endure:

1. You are blessed when you take seriously "the words of the prophecy in this book." [vv. 6-11]

a. Jesus's Statement of BLESSING:

- The book of Revelation was not meant to be a totally incomprehensible, and therefore irrelevant mystery to Christians: "These words are trustworthy and true". We are not responsible for comprehending all the mysteries of the mind of God. But we are accountable for applying what we clearly know.
- Unlike Daniel, due to the imminence of Christ's return, the words of Revelation were never meant to be sealed up – hidden or not understood. The Word in Revelation should guide our lives today.
- Verse 11 warns us: Those who intentionally make the wrong choices are sealing their own fate. No one can ever point at finger at God for unfairness on the Day of Judgment. Please warn others of the wrath that is to come!

b. John's Sincere BLUNDER:

- John makes the same mistake twice (Rev. 19:10). How wonderful that an angel illustrates for us the way God regards us: those who are genuinely God's sometimes stumble and fall, and even repeat mistakes, but God never gives up on them.

2. You are blessed when you begin with the righteousness of Christ, then live by the Words of Christ. [vv. 12-19]

a. The SOURCE of Life:

- True righteousness is offered through the only One qualified to be the Source of it: “. . . the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End . . . the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star” (vv. 12-13, 16).
- The saving grace of God is beautifully illustrated by the statement “Blessed are those who wash their robes” (v. 14). This symbolizes those who have been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb (Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19).

b. The OFFER of Life:

- Here’s a clear invitation to “get a life”, the real one: Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the Water of Life (v. 17). We may not easily reconcile the Sovereignty of God (Romans 9) and the responsibility of man (Romans 10) in salvation. But this invitation is meant for all.
- A repeated reminder to live by the words of Christ emphasizes how much it matters to God: “If anyone adds . . . God will add to him the plagues described in this book. If anyone takes away . . . God will take away his share in the Tree of Life.” (vv. 18-19). This isn’t just for those who teach the Bible, but to all who must live by the Bible. That’s all of us.

Final Thoughts:

[Jesus] who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon” The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all who are God's people (vv. 20-21).

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen!