

Trustworthy and True: Final Exhortations of Revelation

Revelation 22:6-21

MPS Jesus is King who is coming again soon, and by His gospel every Christ-follower is called to live ready.

OBJ Every person can live ready for Jesus' soon coming again by Three Exhortations.

INTRO Today we come to the end of our study of Revelation. At the conclusion I want to ask, "What does one say to conclude such words of eternal, glorious magnitude? What more could possibly be said? How would you end Revelation?"

I can imagine some ways that people might end Revelation. Some might say, "We can win this thing. We've just got to hold faith and fight. Things will get better and better." Others would respond, "Don't Worry. Be Happy." While still others would decry, "Things are getting worse! The 'handbasket' is filling! Therefore, let's take one final look at the master chart." I want us to end our study of Revelation as I believe Jesus calls us to, motivated to greater awe of worship, to greater faithfulness in testimony, and to more far-reaching gospel mission for His Kingdom.

Jesus is King who is coming again soon, and by His gospel every Christ-follower is called to live ready.

Revelation concludes with words of exhortation that summarize its whole message. What began as an epistle to the seven churches now concludes in the same manner. And the exhortations for the seven churches are words for the church today. These exhortations command our attention for how we live today in light of God's eternal Word. Each exhortation is formed by a declaration, a blessing or warning, and a final testimony, all of which beckon the reader to believe in Jesus Christ for eternal life and walk according to His Word.

OBJ **Three Exhortations** reveal how every person should live ready for Jesus' soon coming again.

READ Revelation 22:6-9

⁶And he 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 what must soon take place."

⁷"And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, ⁹but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

John is told that the words of this Revelation are trustworthy and true. This is the first declaration. Jesus sent His angel to show His servant what must take place so that His servant could write for all His people. And after hearing the words of Jesus' Revelation, here is what's most important for us to hear one final time: **these words are trustworthy and true, and what you do with them, how you respond to them, is of first importance for your life now, and forever.**

Jesus beckons the reader's attention to behold what He proclaims, that He is coming soon. This is followed by a blessing, or a beatitude. We need to recognize that a beatitude is not simply a transactional blessing, typically thought of as "each time you do this, you receive a blessing", but declares the reality of God's grace upon the life of one who fulfills in their life what follows. The difference is that the blessing is not a one-time gift but a new reality in which one lives in Jesus' Kingdom. **ILLUS** The distinction might be compared to vacationing in the Ozarks for a few days verses waking up in the glory of the Ozarks every morning. Jesus' blessedness is bestowed on the one who keeps, obeys, the prophecy of this book, God's Word. **Jesus promises that the one who is careful to believe and obey His Word walks in an abundance of God's grace; "the Lord make His face to shine on you", as in Revelation 21.**

We should also consider what Jesus' means by "soon". "Soon" may be the most debated word of all of Revelation, as all approaches to interpretation hinge on timing. "Soon" is something greater and more glorious than a "short timeframe" in which we typically perceive it. As in other passages, God's intention in Revelation was NOT a focus on "chronos" but on "kairos", not the movement or measurement of time, but the perfection of it for His sovereign purpose. This is how God



works, and how we must understand “soon” in Revelation. We must not get consumed by “when” but remain diligent to “watch”, as Jesus teaches in Matthew 25:13.¹ And understand, Christ-follower, the aim of “watching” is for daily “walking”; not so we can predict or know when, but so we live ready every day. *“Keep the words” to live in the blessing of God means that we prioritize HOW we live according to His Word NOW so we live ready for whenever He comes again.*

Summary **Jesus is coming again and He calls every person to be ready!** His coming will be at the perfect time that no one will have known or expected. But you must be ready, because on that Day all will know it and no one will miss it! *How one lives ready is revealed by Jesus’ word, “Behold”, His call to believe what He says so that we live in light of it.*

John states that he the servant who heard these words. Upon hearing he fell down to worship at the angel’s feet. John recounts what happened earlier(19:10), not a second occurrence. He does this to remind us of the angel’s rebuke and the exhortation to only worship God. **TRANS** This declaration and blessing bring us to our first exhortation.

Exhortation #1: True Words motivate fervent worship with one’s whole being.

What a relief to hear words that are true and that you know you can trust! Knowing what is true and who you can trust today is no easy task! But Jesus says, “My words are trustworthy and true”! Words that are true and trustworthy should motivate us to live in the light of their truth. Jesus instructs us in how we do this. “Behold” commends us to believe and worship Him, and “keep the words” commends us to faith that obeys. Worship is not activity fueled by emotion or anything else form within us; that’s idolatry. *Fervent worship is obedience fueled by beholding the One who is truth!*

Any response to Revelation that does not motivate worship of Jesus as Lord first stands in the angel’s rebuke. Worship culminates our beholding Jesus and fills us with greater power by His presence. Beholding Jesus in Revelation culminates as comfort for us to persevere in the face of persecution, but never to coddle personal preference, as conviction to repent and purge every inkling to sin, guard against any propensity for sin, and to flee its every source of temptation, but never to redefine what is called “sin”, and as courage to bear a faithful testimony at all times, especially in the face of threat of persecution. *Worshipping Jesus means we behold Him to obey His words as the source and strength of our life.*

ILLUS **Laser light is amazing.** *Did you know laser light can levitate things?* They can be used as tweezers to move things as tiny as single atoms, and can heat things up to extreme temperatures, even equal to the sun. *How are so many amazing things done by laser light?* The more focused the light, the more powerful the laser. *Laser light is only as powerful as its focus; if you want to increase its power, you dial in its focus.* This is true for your walk with Christ as well.

APPL I ask you today, *“where do you need to dial in your faith focus on Jesus and His Word today?”* The Great Commandment, to love the Lord with **all** your heart, soul, mind and strength, is not a recommendation. *Is there any area of your life where you are not giving your “all” in loving response, in obedience, to His Word that is trustworthy and true?*

READ Revelation 22:10-16

¹⁰And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. ¹¹Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

¹²“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

¹ Robert H. Mounce, [The Book of Revelation](#), The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997), 404. Mounce states, “It is best to take the utterance at face value and accept the difficulty of a foreshortened perspective on the time of the end rather than to reinterpret it in the sense that Jesus “comes” in the crises of life and especially at the death of every person.”



In these next verses Jesus tells John not to seal up these words because the time is near. Whereas the first declaration set forth the priority of by “soon”, “near” in this verse adds urgency. And though it may seem to espouse a “live and let live” philosophy, the next phrase recognizes the spiritual battle into which this prophecy is going. After this declaration another call to behold sounds forth. Jesus declares again that He is coming soon, and he reminds of the work He will perform and His sovereign authority to accomplish this work. The beatitude is for those who wash their robes to have access to the tree of life, who will enjoy the city of God because they have been saved by the blood of Jesus. All who reject Jesus will not enter the city of God, a final reminder that universalism is a lie. [Christianity’s eternal reward is based exclusively on one’s personal faith in Jesus Christ.](#)

Exhortation #2: True salvation produces a faithful testimony to salvation in Jesus Christ.

The only way a person gains access into the eternal city of God is by faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus. “Wash”(.14) denotes an ongoing action of life because of Jesus’ atonement. This means that those who live in the city of God are those who keep their life covered in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus is our salvation, our hope, and our source of daily renewal. When one continually “washes” their life in the gospel, it produces a faithful testimony to Jesus. This is what it means to have life with God in Jesus, a daily dependence upon and trust in Him, daily cleansing from sin’s stain and presence, and daily strength to walk in the light of His Word by faith. And there is an urgency for us to remain faithful in sharing this testimony because we know the time is “near”! A faithful testimony is more important than a clear timeline. [Christians do not allow the reality of “what is” to deter us but stay focused on “what is near” to remain faithful in our testimony to Jesus Christ.](#)

APPL Are you washing in the blood of the Lamb daily, knowing that Jesus second coming is near?

READ Revelation 22:17-20

¹⁷The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

¹⁸I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹and 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.

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

The third declaration is marked by a distinct voice of the Spirit and the Bride. This is the Spirit-empowered people of God! And our voice is one of invitation, “Come.” The one who hears, the one who thirsts, who is hungry, even the one who desires; no matter how you are or where you are, the invitation to come to Jesus is for you now! The invitation is paralleled by a warning for any who reject Jesus; they will not enter the city of God nor the garden with God. And all of this forms our priority with urgency because again Jesus states that He is coming again soon! [Christian, your purpose and commissioning for why we exist on this earth is to labor for the gospel to see this confession become reality.](#)

Exhortation #3: True conviction of Jesus’ second coming compels a far-reaching mission of our going.

The deeper our conviction that King Jesus is coming again soon, the stronger and more unimpeded will be our commitment to go and tell now! If His coming is not really a big deal to us now, our going will never be that important. If His coming is not soon, our going can wait. The more His coming sits on the back-burner of our priority, the less we will be concerned with a far-reaching mission, and the ‘further-out’ we will continually procrastinate in our going. [John’s words echo the vast invitation that defines the message of the Spirit-empowered church today; our mission is to declare to all people, “Come!”](#)

Church, God’s Word is trustworthy and true! Are you dialed-in and focused to behold Jesus with your whole being?! The time is short. Do you sense the soon-ness of Jesus’ coming?! Our commissioning clear! Do you feel the near-ness of Jesus’ coming?! The Holy Spirit is sufficient! Don’t let the world’s lies distract you nor the enemy’s threat deter you. The harvest fields are ready! Do you sense the urgency to tell the world, to invite your neighbor, your friend, your family member for Jesus’ coming?! The Lord’s Promise is real! Is Jesus’ soon coming again the priority and urgency of your life?



Revelation is not about knowing the “time” He will come, but about testifying that the time to trust Jesus is NOW!

Christian, let’s behold Jesus with greater focus than ever before, dialing in every aspect of our whole life to live ready!

Trust more than we’ve ever trusted before! Let’s trust where we’ve said “no” to the Lord, let your life declare a “yes”; where you’ve ignored before, rise up and walk by faith; where you’ve remained closed or hidden from God, open your life to trust His wonder-working power to cleanse, heal, and redeem every part!

Love more than you’ve ever loved before! Let’s love people that you stopped loving at some point, for whatever reason, people that you’ve never loved before, and people that you’ve never wanted to love before!

Serve more to do more good than ever before! Let’s serve where we know God has gifted us, in places where need arises, in ways you’ve never dared to try before, and in a way you’ve never sacrificed before.

LifePoint, let’s tell the world about Jesus and invite everyone to come! And let’s begin now with who it is in your life that needs to hear from you today!

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