

Revelation 22

- Introduction.
 - Even though this great chapter of the Bible tells us of heaven, we should think deeply about it, and take in *now* what we can. “We do not suppose that a man is shooting at a target if he does not look that way; nor can we imagine that a man’s ambition is fixed on heaven if he has no heavenward thoughts or aspirations.” (Spurgeon)
- The Finality of Heaven Described.
 - There shall be no more curse:
 - In heaven, the curse is gone. Since the fall, man and creation have lived with the effect of the curse described in Genesis 3:16-19:
 - The throne of God and of the Lamb.
 - On the throne is Almighty God.
 - It is a throne of righteousness, but no less a throne of grace, and there, mercy reigns.
 - They shall see His face:
 - We shall literally be able look into the face of Jesus.
 - We shall be able to look into the very heart of Jesus, so as to understand his love, as we never been able to understand it before.
 - We do know him know...
 - 2Cor. 4:6 It is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
 - Yet, Paul also anticipated a greater fulfillment of our seeing the face of God: 1Cor. 13:12 Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I am also known.
 - In that day there will be nothing that obscures our vision of Jesus:
 - This will be the greatest glory of heaven: to know God, to know Jesus, more intimately and wonderfully than we ever could on earth.
 - His name shall be on their foreheads:
 - Heaven will be a place where God’s people will forever be identified with Him.
 - There shall be no more night there:
 - Heaven will be a place where the darkness of this age will be forever gone.
 - God Himself is the light.

- The things which must shortly take place . . . I am coming quickly!
 - John reminds us of the suddenness of these events
 - “The word ‘quickly’ might with accuracy be rendered ‘suddenly.’”
 - God *wants* to keep all generations expectant, watching, and ready for His return.
 - We are not rushing towards a distant brink of the consummation of all things; we are running parallel along the edge of that brink, (Mounce)

- Rev. 22:14 Blessed are those who do His commandments.
 - John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.
 - John 15:14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

- *I, Jesus*, have sent My angel *to testify to you...*
 - With these solemn words, *Jesus authenticates* the entire book.
 - We should own this book in our hearts.

- Bright and Morning Star:
 - This is a Messianic title from the Old and New Testaments.
 - Just as the Morning Star shines and welcomes the new day, so does Jesus, herald the coming Kingdom of God.

- Whoever *desires* let him take the water of life freely!
 - Glory in the greatness of the invitation.!
 - Anyone who desires salvation in Jesus Christ can come to Him and take the water of life freely.
 - It doesn't say whoever *understands...*
 - It doesn't say *whoever can...*
 - I don't know if I can live the Christian life the way that I should - come anyway!
 - It doesn't say *whoever is worthy...*
 - It is fitting that this great invitation closes the Book of Revelation and the Bible.
 - “All the prophets of the Bible, all the apostles of the Bible, all the threatenings of the Bible, all the promises of the Bible, gather themselves up, and focus themselves into this one burning ray, ‘Come to Jesus. Come, and take the water of life freely.’” (Spurgeon)

- If anyone adds or takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy...
 - Deut. 4:2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.
 - Deut. 12:32 Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.
 - Proverbs 30:5-6 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. *Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.*

- Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
 - With this phrase, John uses an Aramaic expression that was well known in the ancient church: *Maranatha!*