

God's Final Word; Revelation 22:1-5

I. The Final Word

- A. Written at the close of the 1st Century
- B. Probably the last book written and we are in the last chapter of the book
- C. A Series of affirmations that amount to invitations
- D. Arguably, God's Final Words to His people

II. Anticipate

- A. Revelation 22:1–5 (ESV); ¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.
- B. Anticipate the life of God in Heaven
- C. Water of life (from the throne of God)
 - 1. John 4:14 (ESV); but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
 - 2. John 7:37–38 (ESV); ³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ”
 - 3. Jesus is the Living Water, the River of Life
- D. Tree of life
 - 1. Genesis 2:9 (ESV); And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - 2. Revelation 2:7 (ESV); e who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’
 - 3. For those who remain steadfast, focused on Jesus, we have the right to eternal life!
- E. Light of life
 - 1. John 8:12 (ESV); Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
 - 2. We will be with the Light of Life forever
- F. Reign of life
 - 1. Romans 5:17 (ESV); For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.
 - 2. 2 Timothy 2:11–12 (ESV); ¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;
- G. We have been invited to live with God and Christ in heaven
- H. Here in this life we anticipate the life in heaven

III. Obey

- A. Revelation 22:6–7 (ESV); ⁶ And 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.”

B. Revelation 22:12–15 (ESV);¹² “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”¹⁴ Blessed 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.¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

C. Obey the Word of God

D. God’s word is “trustworthy and true”

1. Dependable; we can depend on God to keep his promises
2. Desirable; It is more desirable to obey the word of God and anticipate life in heaven than to ignore the word of God and be resigned to a life in hell

E. Hebrews 5:8–9 (ESV);⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

F. What is given to the Father, is given to the Son

1. Revelation 1:8 (ESV); “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
2. We see in 22:12-13 Jesus says the same thing

G. Our obedience to God’s word is our obedience to Jesus and to God

IV. Worship

A. Revelation 22:8–9 (ESV);⁸ I, 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,⁹ but 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.”

B. The only valid respond to the Father’s love is our worship

1. Romans 12:1–2 (ESV);¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
2. God’s will for us is to give up our lives (take up our cross, sacrifice our lives)
3. God’s will for us is to transform our minds (materialistic to spiritual)
4. God’s will for us is to do His will
5. That is worship!

V. Proclaim

A. Revelation 22:10 (ESV); And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

B. We have a task, to proclaim God’s message

1. 1 Peter 4:10–11;¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
2. 2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV); and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

C. We cannot forget that we must proclaim God's message of salvation to all we come in contact with

VI. Prepare

A. Prepare for the coming of God

B. Revelation 22:20–21 (ESV); ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

C. Expectant Attitude

D. Worshipful Spirit

E. Trusting Heart

F. Saturated Mind

G. Colossians 3:16 (ESV): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

H. Confident Hope