

Strengthening Faith, Sermon Series on Revelation continues

3/3/24 "Our Future, Our Readiness," Rev. 21 (1-8) & 22, MEV

INTRODUCTION: Do you ever tire of trying to live like a Christian? Do you ever feel that it's just too hard to live for Jesus?

Vs. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all things.

Rev. 2.7, MEV: To him who overcomes I will give permission to eat of the tree of life.

MAIN IDEA: We need to overcome the world and ourselves daily. What can help us when we tire? Here 3 reasons to persist.

I. First, all things will be made new (Rev. 21:1-5)

NOTE: Sometimes we get discouraged because we don't see any change in circumstances, nation, world, and we lose hope.

- A. a new heavens & earth (1)...no pollution, climate change, disasters, mold/mildew, allergens, poison ivy
- B. New Jerusalem...perfect (cubelike, 16)
 - 1. beautiful (11, 18-21)
 - 2. secure (12-14 walls, 27, Rev. 22:14-15)
- C. nothing that does not belong in God's world... death, sorrow, crying, pain (4, 22:3)
- D. *real* life (3): eternal (22:2), intimacy with God (22:4)

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, God is unchanging (6-8, 22:13)

Alpha & Omega, Beginning & End, First & Last...source of all life, perfect (A&O = 1st & last letters of Greek alphabet)

- A. His standards... based on Him...His holiness, character... truth, love, justice, mercy, purity, faithfulness
 - 1. world's standards pressure us now
 - 2. lies that Bible is outdated or we don't understand it
- B. His promises... To Abraham, David, us (22:16)
- Root of David...before David, Creator
- Offspring of David...descendant of David
- Bright & Morning Star...offering hope & a future
 - 1. reflects His faithfulness to His people
 - 2. reflects His keeping His promises, giving hope
- C. His judgment: rewarding according to our work (22:12)

EX: Adam & Eve, Enoch, Elijah, Annanias & Saphira,

- 1. salvation to those who believe (sonship 21:7)... thirst for water of life (21:5), overcome (21:7)
- 2. condemnation of the wicked (21:8, 22:15)

cowardly, unbelieving, abominable (*Gk*; derived from word meaning "to stink"), **murderers, sexually immoral** (having sexual contact outside traditional marriage), **sorcerers** (includes use of drugs, witchcraft, casting spells, charms, Satanism, incantations, attempted contact with the dead, the occult, seeking paranormal energies or demons –*Stamp, Fire Bible*), **idolaters, liars**

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, He will come suddenly, quickly (22:7, 12, 20)

- A. finding us living as we do (22:10-11)
 - 1. whether we are keeping words of this prophecy...heeding the warnings (7, 9)

EX: being lukewarm (Rev. 3:15)

- 2. whether we are adding to or ignoring some (18-19)
- 3. whether we are worshiping God (9)
- B. we will not have time to "get right"
- C. our real selves will be on display

ILLUSTRATION: Workplace computers, when someone comes up behind you...what are you looking at? Work? Or Amazon?

CONCLUSION: man who lost his closest friends, suffered for following Jesus, no one helped him; God didn't deliver him; was isolated from others... But he overcame

ALTAR: Struggle with discouragement about trying or world? Feel like a failure? Need hope?
