

Revelation 22:12-16 –Christ Work In Comforting- A Summary

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: If someone were to ask you what the point of Revelation is, I hope you will be able to say “comfort to God’s people.” But if he then asked, “How did Christians get that comfort?” what would you say? John answered that for you by looking to the work of Jesus – the source of the comfort to his people. In particular, John focused on 3 ways that Christ comforted his children – children who were enduring trials from the Jews and the Romans. God wants you to hear about the 3 ways Christ comforts his suffering children today.

Our headings are: **Christ Gives a Sure Reward to his Children, Christ Gives a Sure Judgment on your Enemies, and Christ Gives a Sure Testimony Of Himself.**

Our goals are: That you **will be warmed in your hearts knowing the love of your Savior... who is ready to reward your obedience, and ready to destroy those who threaten your service to him.**

Christ Gives a Sure Reward to his Children

12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

1. Jesus assured his children that he was going to quickly bring a reward to his children. I hope you have been convinced by now that there is a certain kind of urgency and nearness about this whole prophecy. You can see the nearness of Christ’s coming here in Revelation, but you also see that nearness of Christ’s coming in many of the apostolic writers...like Peter, James, John, Paul, and the writer of Hebrews. The trouble really comes when people see the word “reward” they think of the final judgment day. Now this is a judgment day, but not the final judgment day-yet! This was God’s judgment day upon Israel. And because the Apostles knew it was near, they referred to it many times.

Revelation 3: 11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

You can see the expectation of the writers of the New Testament who constantly talked about Christ’s soon coming.

James 5:8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

2Peter 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent 炽热的heat?

1John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

Hebrews 10:37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

2Thessalonians 2: 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his appearing and his coming.

One that we did not read last time... Jesus himself said this to his friends and his enemies.

Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. 28 "Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

2. What kind of reward would Christ give to the persecuted Christians when he returned in judgment over Israel and Rome? Freedom. Freedom to go about their business of living and preaching the Gospel. This was a fundamental human desire. This is the thing for which men and women have lived and died!

13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

3. And in order to encourage the people to remain faithful and wait for his deliverance, Jesus reassured them of who he was...showing that he had the desire and the power to do as he had promised. (“Alpha- 1st letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega, the last.) Jesus was the beginning and the ending of man’s salvation and sanctification. If someone were a mechanic you trust him with your car. If someone is eternal, you trust him with your eternity. Jesus himself said earlier:

Matthew 28:20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

This knowledge of Christ's omnipresence, omnipotence, and eternity is of utmost importance to every Christian.

14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

4. What were the grounds for the reward that Christ would bring? Christians had to keep the commands of Christ faithfully. What is the reward? Christ, the one who died on the **Tree of Life**.

Revelation 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

And when you eat, you grow, you reproduce, you expand...

Notice how Christians show their faith by obedience. No one must say: I am elected. I am saved. I can live however I want. To live however you want is evidence of no faith.

1 John 2: 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Christians have rights to the city and can enter through the gates. They don't have to jump the wall...or use some other illegal means. They enter through the Door – Jesus himself.

Revelation 3:12 - "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God..."

And this promise was evangelistic as well. God promised that all the nations of the world will enter this city. (So it is obviously not a literal city.)

Revelation 21: 4 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

Christ Gives a Sure Judgment on Your Enemies

15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

1. There is a clear distinction—a clear judgment that the Lord would make. He would separate the sheep from the goats...the clean from the unclean...the secured from the banished 驱逐...the believer from the unbeliever. He would separate his children from dogs...etc. Remember, dogs and scavengers 食腐动物 were looked upon with derision 嘲笑 in the Bible.

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

Dogs were equated with prostitution.

Deuteronomy 23:18 "You shall not bring the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the LORD your God for any vowed offering, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.

Jesus compared unclean nations to dogs.

Mark 7: 26 The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

Paul compared the false circumcision of the Jews to dogs. (Chilton)

Philippians 3: 2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation 破坏! 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

So "dogs" represented all those who lived wickedly and persecuted God's people.

2. Where are the wicked kept in judgment? In the city dumps, Gehenna, where they burned the waste from animal sacrifices and garbage – a fire that never stopped. This was Isaiah's prophecy...that while many will worship the true God, some will be judged by the true God.

Isaiah 66: 23 And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD. 24 "And they shall

go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence 厌恶 to all flesh." Christians live differently; because they have been saved by grace they endeavor to live in obedience to Christ. And they are brought to the inside of the city.

Christ Gives a Sure Testimony of Himself

16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

1. The first unique thing about this verse was the plural usage of "you." This meant that Jesus Christ was speaking directly to all those who were hearing the Revelation. He was comforting everyone.

2. He reminded his hearers who he was:

a. He is the Root of Offspring of David. b. He is the Bright and Morning Star.

3. What is the significance of these things?

a. This was the fulfillment of the prophecies given by the Lord to David. Jesus was from the root of David. And since David's kingdom was forever, David's Son, Jesus' kingdom is forever.

Luke 1: 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

b. And what about this star? Let us look at the prophecies concerning Jesus as the Star-one passage in particular. Our text simply confirms this.

Numbers 24: 17 "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter 猛击 the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult. 18 "And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession, While Israel does valiantly 勇猛地.

And isn't Christ himself directly called the morning star and the Sun of Righteousness?

Conclusion:

Those who endured the persecution from the Jews and the Romans were rewarded with Christ. Christ was their reward, not in a saving sense, as they were Christians already, but in a closeness sense. They were rewarded with being closer to Christ. God's people were close to the everlasting King, that Son of King David. But there was an earthly reward as well. The kingdom of Christ survived and then thrived while the enemies were destroyed. Where is Rome today...but begging for a European bail-out 财政紧急援助! And the Jews? The Jews were destroyed in AD70. Who is right? Christ is! Who is strong? Christ!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Do you see Christ as your ultimate reward? Does being close to Christ mean more to you than all the world? Or do you see financial advantage, professional advancement, and material accumulations as the ultimate reward? Being close to Christ is beyond anything this world can offer. He leads you in truth so you know how to live. He never leaves you and comforts you when you struggle with things in your life. He provides you with many brothers and sisters and fathers and mothers to keep you while you wait for him. He speaks to you regularly through his Word and Sacraments. He listens to you all the time. He assures you of eternity in heaven. What a Lord! Praise him. Sing hallelujah.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, look at what Christians get: They are preserved. Their enemies are destroyed. Christ guarantees it. But you get none of it. Why? You are not Christ's child. But if you want to make your life right with God he will give you these things. So why not ask Christ to adopt you as his child. He has paid for the sins of all kinds of people. It doesn't matter how bad you are!