

## Revelation 22, 14-21 “Jesus’ Last Invitation”

2.27.19

From the moment sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God has been on a rescue mission to save sinners! The Lord God is a compassionate, saving God, Who pursues lost souls for His glory and His honor and because He’s a God of relationships! Therefore, it’s not surprising that as we come to the end of His Word, the Bible in Revelation chapter 22, that we see a FINAL INVITATION...a “last” invitation...one last call.... for sinners to come to Jesus and enter into a relationship with Him and be saved!

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Several years ago, *The New York Times* ran an article about “Mayberry Days” held in Mt. Airy ea. yr



The article recounted that thousands of people flock each year to celebrate, “a place that never was, a place they choose to believe once existed.” That place: MAYBERRY. Here’s a picture of “Thelma Lou” from last year’s parade...



The article asked, “Why all the make-believe? Why the continued nostalgia over a mythical town in a television series that aired more than 50 years ago?” The write of the article gave this answer:

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**“People come...less to escape than to search... ‘All of this tells me that people are really looking for something,’ says a 73-year-old barber by the name of Hiatt. ‘They want to know if there really was a place where people trusted each other, where there’s a peace and serenity.’ *The New York Times*, “Mayberry Days”**

Well, the Bible teaches that such a place does exist. It’s not in Mt. Airy, North Carolina...and it’s not called Mayberry...it’s called Heaven and there is a person there that we can totally trust: Jesus Christ...not the mayor of heaven, not the barber of heaven, not the sheriff of heaven...but, the King of Heaven...and this King extends an invitation to come and join Him in His kingdom...not for a few days...not for a parade...but, for eternity...in kingdom that will never end.

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And so it’s here in Revelation 22, that Jesus offers His final invitation. Let’s see it...

## **Revelation 22:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. <sup>16</sup> “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.” <sup>17</sup> The 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. <sup>18</sup> I 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, <sup>19</sup> and 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. <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

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### **What is this?**



That's an invitation isn't it? I know a thing or two about invitations...because we've got a wedding in about a month and we've had to work through the fact that we have a wedding venue that won't hold all the people we would love to invite to that wedding. It comes down to the fact that the venue can only hold so many people and when you ask the couple getting married to come up with a list of folks they've been close to throughout their lives and then you add family on top of that...well...you can't invite everyone you'd like to invite.

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Not so with Jesus. His invitation was sent with OPEN ARMS. Arms nailed to cross...inviting all who would come to Him and receive Him. And here in Revelation 22...we see this last invitation to come! And those who choose to come are called: BLESSED. See it...

## **Revelation 22:14**

<sup>14</sup> 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.

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What does this mean? "Washed their robes?" (Note at bottom of page says: "do his commandments"). And so, this is a speaking of following Christ...it's speaking of the act of being cleansed. It's speaking of what you do to dirty clothes. You wash them. In the case of salvation, you are not washing in Tide or Gain, you are washing in the blood of Jesus. I know that sounds gross...to wash in blood...but, the point is that we can't be "clean" unless we have accepted what Jesus did for us on the cross, which is He shed His blood for us...so as to "wash us clean."

## **Hebrews 9:14**

<sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our<sup>a</sup> conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

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It's the blood of Jesus that makes us clean. "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!" You see, when you accept what Jesus did on the cross and receive Him by faith into your life...calling on His name to save you...you will receive eternal life and you will have the right to eat of the Tree of Life.

Where was the Tree of Life to begin with, church? In the Garden of Eden, right? Yes. Where is it now? In heaven! And it will one day end up in the New Jerusalem. See it again...

### **Revelation 22:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> 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.

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This tree will be in that great city...THE NEW JERUSALEM, and it's through those gates of pearl that we'll walk in and out of...watch as this flows from verse 14 to 15.

### **Revelation 22:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

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What does, "outside" mean? Well, it simply means... "away from...can't get into...UNPROTECTED." Think of that...those who end up in Hell do so because they chose to remain outside of God's protection and therefore for all eternity they will be in Satan's Hell! It's so sad...for there will be those who do not accept and receive the invitation of Jesus and because of that, for all eternity they will be separated from Jesus and that is the Hell of Hell...never being able to have another chance to come to Jesus.

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And so, who are these people?

1. **Dogs (impure people, pagans, heathens)**
  2. **Sorcerers (those who practice black magic, spells, witchcraft, occult practices)**
  3. **Sexually Immoral (fornicators, prostitutes, practicing of unlawful sexual intercourse)**
  4. **Murderers (those who commit homicide/kills)**
  5. **Idolaters (worshippers of false gods)**
  6. **Lovers of Falsehood (liars and deceivers)**
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So, what happens to these people? These people don't get in to the New Jerusalem. Why? Because they chose to identify with those lifestyles versus choosing Jesus. They chose to identify with those sins and refused to confess and repent of them and trust in Jesus by faith! You see, there'll be those who say, "Let me in," but their names are not in the Book of Life! We saw this two weeks ago...

### **Revelation 21:27**

<sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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Now WHO is saying this all of this? Jesus, through His angel! Watch...

### **Revelation 22:16**

<sup>16</sup> "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.”

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Who did the angel testify to? You say, “JOHN.” Yes...but, more than just to John...to US...the churches. This is a message to us, the Bride...the Church...the followers of Christ throughout time. And Jesus reminds us of who He is in His DIVINITY and His HUMANITY. He is the “root of David.” What does that mean? It means (like with a tree) that He is the beginning of David...in other words, He formed David...Jesus was the source of David. But, Jesus is also a “DESCENDANT” of David. Did you see that. How is that? That’s Jesus’ HUMANITY. He came to earth... God with us...to be one of us...He came from the line of David, born of a woman, just like us! Never forget...Jesus is the God/Man. This is the wonder of the Hypostatic Union. He is 100% God and 100% Man.

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Then someone else speaks... watch this...it’s fascinating...

**Revelation 22:17**

<sup>17</sup> The 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.

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Some have said the “Spirit” or “Holy Spirit” disappears in the New Jerusalem and eternity. But, right here He is. He is with the Bride (that’s us) just as He has been with us through this life...He will continue to be with us throughout eternity...WHY?...because He is the third person of the Trinity of God. Remember Church, it’s His presence that sealed us when we placed our trust in Jesus and it’s the Holy Spirit who will deliver us to Heaven...and He’ll be with us throughout eternity.

And SO together we say, “COME!” Join us! It’s the invitation to come and drink! That’s a direct quote from Isaiah 55:1, “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.” And Who is THIS ONE we’re to come drink from?

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***JESUS! He is the WATER OF LIFE!*** He said as much in John 7.

**John 7:37-39**

<sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” <sup>39</sup> Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

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So, the Spirit and the Bride (that’s us) say Come and drink...and there’s no PRICE...without price...because Jesus bought us with His own blood so that we could freely come to Him.

Have you come to Him? Are you following Him? Are you living for Him. If you are, then you are drinking from Him and your life won’t be dry...you will find relief and strength and WATER in a dry and thirsty land!

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I tell you...I’ve been experiencing this life... Not that I’m anything...but, since I’ve gone through this process of surrendering my life to Him in every area...there is no known sin in my life...there is no one that has ought against me or me them...WOW! There’s a freedom and power that I can’t explain! It’s those...



Better Things of life we've been talking about on our climb! There's a joy, even in the struggle and the difficulties...because He is with us...His presence is powerful as we look to Him and talk to Him throughout the day and commune with Him. **And how do we commune with Him?** Through the Holy Spirit.

It seems in Christendom today we are forgetting or not remembering the ROLE of the HOLY SPIRIT in our lives, and if we neglect the Holy Spirit in our lives, it is to our detriment and we'll become dry!

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### **John 16:1-15**

<sup>1</sup> "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup> And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. <sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup> But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

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So we return to Rev 22...verse 18...and we see with this final call invitation, comes a WARNING!

### **Revelation 22:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> I 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, <sup>19</sup> and 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.

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What we see here are lost rewards...and you see Church, throughout Scripture, there are warnings NOT to add to it or take away from Scripture... We find this to be true in the OT...

### **Deuteronomy 12:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in

the fire to their gods. <sup>32</sup> “Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

Listen, no true believer would ever deliberately tamper with Scripture. Those of us who know and love the Lord treat His Word with the utmost care and respect. I know I feel the heavy weight of teaching the Word and wanting to be faithful to teach it accurately. I know that there have been times I’ve made errors in how I’ve taught the Word...not intentionally...but, I look back and see how I could have done a better job in explaining a concept or a teaching. But, that’s not what’s being talked about here. What’s being described here are those who engage in deliberately misinterpreting Scripture or falsifying it in some way. The Apostle Paul described those type of people in 2 Corinthians 7:17.

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### **2 Corinthians 7:17**

<sup>17</sup>For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

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And so, we come NOW to the last words in the Bible...

### **Revelation 22:20-21**

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

<sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

I close tonight with the words of the great preacher and Bible commentator Charles Spurgeon. Spurgeon preached a message on this passage titled: “The Oft-Repeated Invitation.” See his words on the screens:

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**“To my mind, the solemnity of this invitation lies partly in the fact that it is placed at the very end of the Bible and placed there because it is the sum and substance—the aim and objective of the whole Bible. It is like the point of the arrow and all of the rest of the Bible is like the shaft and feathers on either side of it.**

**We may say of the Scriptures what John said of his Gospel, ‘These are written’—all these books that are gathered together into one library called the Bible—‘These are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. And that believing you might have life through His name.’ So far as you are concerned, this blessed Book has missed its purpose, unless you have been led by it to come to Christ!**

**It is all vain that you have a Bible, or read your Bible, unless you really ‘take the water of life’ of which it speaks. It is worse than vain, for if it is not a savor of life unto you, it shall be a savor of death unto death! Therefore, it seems to me that this is a very solemn invitation because all the books of the Bible do, in effect, cry to sinners, ‘Come to Jesus.’ Charles Spurgeon, (Sermon: *Oft-Repeated Invitation*)**

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