

*The Commencement of Eternity*  
“THE DESIRED IMPACT OF THE REVELATION”  
Revelation 22:6-13

**Theme:** The goal of the Revelation is to reveal Christ with the impact of causing believers to reach out and unbelievers to repent and believe.

I. **CONFIDENCE... In the Imminence of Christ's Return – 22:6-7a** (cp. 1:1-3)

A. ***The Confidence in the Revelation – v. 6***

1. The angel continues to bring conclusion to the vision provided to John – *“And he said to me, These words are faithful and true.”*
2. This is a heavenly attestation that the prophecies provided John are authentic – valid to every detail and certain to be fulfilled precisely.
3. John provides commentary on what he has received by stating – *“and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.”*
4. This is a clear and unapologetic claim by John that the Revelation is not a product of human invention or imagination, but the direct result of God's initiating a clear display of what is going to happen at the end of the ages.
5. John provides us with a confidence that the Revelation will unfold exactly as God has revealed it – based on the previous record of God's specific and precise execution of the prophecies throughout Scripture – cp. *Isaiah 46:9-11*.

B. ***The Confidence in the Return – v. 7a***

1. The most imminent and relevant prophecy in Scripture to those who received the Revelation is the reality of Christ's return – *“And behold, I am coming quickly ...”*
2. Having completed the prophetic details in the previous section as Heaven was described, John now takes us back to the very first item on God's prophetic calendar – that which will start everything off – the Rapture of the Church.
3. The early church's anticipation of the imminent Rapture is clearly revealed – cp. *1 Corinthians 1:7; 4:5; 16:22; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 4:15; Titus 2:13; James 5:7; 1 John 2:28; 3:2*
4. The word *“quickly”* [ταχύς] is an adverb that is not referring to the speed at which Christ will travel to earth, but to the idea of “soon” or “before long” and is applicable to every generation of believers who are to wait and expect His return at any moment.
5. This is the assurance that we can expect Him to fulfill His promise to return – we will not be disappointed; He will come!

II. COMMITMENT ... To the Instructions of Christ – 22:7b (cp. 1:3)

A. *The Propositional Commands*

1. In light of His promise to come, we must be concerned about the contents of His warnings to us and those who will suffer the events prophesied.
2. He says: *“Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”*
3. This brings back the statements of blessing for those who obey God’s warnings that men must repent – cp. Revelation 1:3
4. The emphasis on the specific value of every part of the prophecy – that none of the words are wasted or unimportant – *“the words of the prophecy of this book”* are in total to be considered essential.

B. *The Practical Compliance*

1. However, it isn’t adequate to merely know what it says, it is necessary to *“heed the words...”*
2. That is, they must be applied so that they are directive to how we live – cp. 2Peter 3:11-15
3. The word “heed” [τηρέω] means *to guard, observe, keep, or pay attention to* – and refers to the concerning oneself with obedience to these instructions – cp. 1 John 5:2-3
4. Those who live as if Jesus could come at any moment will concern himself with the priority to *“heed the words”* the instructions of Scripture in general – and the necessity of repentance in particular.

III. COMPULSION ... To the Worship of Christ Alone – 22:8-9

A. *The Powerful Impulse to Worship – v. 8*

1. The awareness of the primacy of Jesus Christ and His word – together with the obligation to obey the instructions of the book to repent and worship Jesus Christ prompts John to worship.
2. We are told that *“I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.”*
3. We are not sure what happened to cause John to mistakenly worship this angel – perhaps given the fact that the angel is quoting Jesus in the previous verse that John mistakes him for the Lord – but we don’t know.
4. What we do know is that the natural response to a follower of the Lord Jesus when they see Him revealed is to fall down to worship Him.

5. John essentially is overcome with the desire to worship and immediately does so.

B. *The Proper Individual to Worship – v. 9*

1. However, his worship is misplaced – *“But he said to me, Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book.”*

2. Since God has declared that He will not share His glory with another, the angel is quick to stop the improper worship being offered by John.

3. It may be worship offered in spirit, but it was not according to truth – and the angel put an immediate stop to it – even as had already been done for John – cp.

*Revelation 19:10*

4. The instruction by the angel was to worship God alone – *“Worship God.”* – cp.

*Exodus 34:14; Matthew 4:10; Colossians 2:18-19.*

IV. COOPERATION... In the Preaching of Christ – *22:10*

A. *The Instruction to Publish the Revelation*

1. He continues to direct the conclusion of this book – *“And he said to me, Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book ...”*

2. Yes, we are to “keep the words of the prophecy of this book” but we are not to keep them to ourselves.

3. Rather, we are to freely proclaim or publish them as wide as possible – to fail to do so is to be uncooperative with God’s purpose for the Revelation – which is to reveal the glory and power of the Lord Jesus Christ who will come to judge those in sin and reward those who trust in Him.

4. “Any Christian who fails to learn its truths is forfeiting blessing; any preacher who fails to proclaim its truths is sinfully unfaithful to his mandate.”<sup>2</sup>

B. *The Impact of Immanency of Revelation*

1. This proclamation must possess a sense of urgency *“... for the time is near.”*

2. The imminence of the return of Christ for His church begs for the widespread proclamation of the Revelation.

V. COMPREHENSION... of Limited Opportunity to Trust Christ – *22:11*

A. *The Results of the Gospel Rejected*

1. As obedient believers take the Revelation, study it, obey it, publish it by appealing to the lost to be reconciled to God before the opportunity is lost, will result in responses by those being reached.

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<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, Revelation 12-22, p. 297.

2. Some of those being “good newsed” – with the Gospel – will totally reject the call to obeying the command of Christ that all men everywhere repent – cp. *Acts 17:30; Revelation 9:20-21; 16:9-11*
3. The response to the proclamation of the truth will fix a person’s eternal condition – *“let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy ...”*
4. This is a reference to the ultimate decision by men to reject God that causes God’s wrath of abandonment – cp. *Hosea 4:16-19; Romans 1:18-32*
5. The consequence of preferring one’s sinful state to repentance is to fix one’s eternal destiny before the wrath of God and certifies God’s righteousness as He condemns that soul to eternal death.

B. *The Results of the Gospel Received*

1. However, for those who obey the gospel and repent are blessed with righteousness eternally – *“and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.”*
2. In their glorified bodies, the saints will enjoy an intensification of their righteousness and holiness – cp. *Revelation 19:7-8*.

VI. CONFRONTATION ... With the Accountability to Christ – 22:12-13

A. *The Specifics of Accountability – v. 12*

1. Jesus repeats His warning that we must make ourselves ready for Him because His return for His saints is imminent – *“Behold, I am coming quickly ...”*
2. In coming, Jesus declares that He will reward men on the basis of their deeds – *“... and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.”*
  - a. The ungodly will be judged on the basis of their evil deeds – cp. *Revelation 20:12*
  - b. The godly will be judged on the basis of their righteous deeds – cp. *1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 2 John 8*.

B. *The Standard for Accountability – v. 13*

1. He finishes with the statement that the standard for accountability is Jesus Christ Himself.
2. He declares in three different ways that He is the ultimate consummation of all things – *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*
3. Jesus is the source of all and the goal of consummation of all things.