

A Final Warning – Revelation 22:18-21

Stand Read Pray

Today we are finishing the book of Revelation and the end of the entire bible. We have taken the time needed to go through every verse and every chapter. Of course, the depth of study of this amazing prophecy could never be complete and many of its subjects are still on a wait and see basis. I do believe though that we have handled it well and learned a lot. As I said last week that I have been very blessed throughout this time and have prayed through this time that you all would receive the same blessings I have. Just because we are finishing this book does not mean we are putting it on the shelf never again to revisit its message. Prophecy is almost 1/3 of the bible and there is a need to refer to this to understand those things. As we get closer to the Tribulation Period, we will continue to see the relevance of this book and will unpack it as needed.

Before John signs off he gives us a stern warning not to mess with this book. There are two camps, those that look at this warning as to only apply to the book of Revelation and then those that say this is referring to the whole bible. I believe it is both. By the time John wrote this book all the Apostles were dead. He was the last one alive. God gave John the vision to seal up all prophecy and to end God's revelation to man. As I said last week by this time in the history of creation and the timeline of mankind we could just say "And we all lived happily ever after". I believe this last statement is very important. Without it who's to say there isn't further revelation. How could we know that the bible is complete. Even with this statement look at all those that ignore it!

First of all, we know that this is the word of God. Moses, the writer of the first book of the Bible was told by God...

Deuteronomy 4:2

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

This being said by God to the first and last writers of the books of the Bible says something. **Don't mess with it.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by **inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Apostles knew they were writing God's word. When Paul was making this statement, it was including the Old and the New Testament writings. He uses the term "God-Breathed" which is translated inspiration of God.

2 Peter 1:20-21

knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God **spoke** as they were **moved** by the **Holy Spirit**.

Peter was showing that the writers of scripture were writing what God was saying.

The problem of people messing with scripture was already happening before John wrote Revelation.

2 Peter 3:14-16

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, **has written to you**, 16 as also in **all his epistles**, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of **the Scriptures**.

We see that they knew that God was speaking through them and that there was then, and are now, those that add or take away from God's word. It's nothing new. It is how Satan gets you to doubt. It is evil to the core.

Our first example is found right in the book of Genesis.

Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, **nor shall you touch it**, lest you die.' "

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

By adding to what God had said, Eve had opened the door to deception. This is a serious warning!

Look at Revelation 22:18

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

This is how the cults work. They add to the word of God. God's word becomes insufficient. Look at all the main ones:

Mormons – The book of Mormon and the Pearl of Great Price. Joseph Smith and Brigham Young

Jehovah's Witness. The New World Translation – The Watchtower Magazine. Charles Taze Russell

Christian Science – Science and the Keys to the Scriptures – Mary Baker Eddy

Islam – The Quran - Muhammed had a vision

All these cults say they had visions of new revelations from God. They didn't heed the warning and they and their followers are deceived.

Galatians 1:6-9

6 I marvel that you are **turning away** so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a **different gospel**, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to **pervert** the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach **any other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, let him be **accursed**. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be **accursed**.

The warning is quite clear, if you add to the word you add to the plagues written in this book. Now this for sure refers to these cults going into the great Tribulation but for those that die before, the everlasting fire mentioned at the Great White Throne awaits them. It is a very serious matter!

Then we have these types of things like the Bible Codes by Michael Drosnin and the Book of Mysteries and others by Jonathan Cahn. Remember he calls himself a Rabbi NOT a pastor. He writes books about visions he had in the past and a past event. NO way to test it. Besides he and many others were WRONG about the four Blood Moons and the Shemitah that has come and gone.

And there is the warning for those that would take away from the Bible...

Revelation 22:19

and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

We live in a time where many who profess to be Christians don't believe that this book is the word of God.

Look at Andy Stanley. A few years back he told everyone that we needed to "unhitch" from the Old Testament. And now what do we see? He is baptizing practicing homosexuals and making room for gay marriage. He has apostatized.

A we already know the apostacy of Rick Warren and if he had his way, he would cut the whole book of Revelation right out of the bible (And many other places too!)

But this is happening to churches all over America!

'The Bible Isn't the Word of God': Nashville Church Comes under Fire for Denying the Bible Is God's Word

A progressive church in Nashville, Tennessee has been largely criticized as of late after the church openly denied that the Bible is God's Word in a recent social media post.

In a post on Facebook, GracePointe Church posted a recap of a message titled "The Bible | What Is Progressive Christianity?" from lead pastor Joshua Scott's Feb. 7 sermon.

"As Progressive Christians, we're open to the tensions and inconsistencies in the Bible", the church wrote in the caption. "We know that it can't live up to impossible, modern standards. We strive to more clearly articulate what Scripture is and isn't," the church noted before further expanding on what the church believes the Bible is and is not.

GracePointe Church added that the Bible "isn't: the Word of God, self-interpreting, a science book, an answer/rule book, **inerrant or infallible**." Instead, the church argued, the Bible is "a product of community, a library of texts, multi-vocal, a human response to God, living and dynamic."

In an interview with The Christian Post, Pastor Scott, who grew up **Southern Baptist**, addressed the reactions to his message, explaining that it should spark conversation among Christians.

Fewer in U.S. Now See Bible as Literal Word of God

A record-low 20% of Americans now say the Bible is the literal word of God, down from 24% the last time the question was asked in 2017, and half of what it was at its high points in 1980 and 1984. Meanwhile, a new high of 29% say the Bible is a

collection of "fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man." This marks the first time significantly more Americans have viewed the Bible as not divinely inspired than as the literal word of God. The largest percentage, 49%, choose the middle alternative, roughly in line with where it has been in previous years.

The accompanying table displays the views of Americans who identify as Christians and those who do not. The differences are in the expected direction, although the underlying pattern of responses remains similar to that of the general population. The majority of Christians (58%) say the Bible is the inspired word of God but not everything in it is to be taken literally, while 25% say it should be interpreted literally and 16% say it is an ancient book of fables.

More granularly, 30% of Protestants say that the Bible is literally true, compared with 15% of Catholics. Almost two-thirds of Catholics choose the alternative that the Bible is the inspired word of God, but every word should not be taken literally.

As was the case in 2017, belief in a literal Bible is highest among those who are more religious and among those with less formal education. Americans who identify as evangelical or born again are much more likely than others to view the Bible as literally true, although even among this group, the percentage believing in a literal Bible is well less than 50%.

These statistics are alarming but are the trend for the last days. Notice the warning that they would be removed from the tree of life and book of life! I don't think these fakers were ever saved to begin with!

1 John 2:18-19

18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the[d] Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that **none of them were of us.**

2 Peter 2:1-2

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there **will be** false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying

the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

People will come that will try to get you to add to the bible. They will come and try to get you to take away from it. Stay away from those people!

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people **turn away!**

We are not to hang out with them, share the pulpit, allow them in leadership. They are to be called out and given the opportunity to repent through the pure gospel message.

Revelation 22:20-21

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Jesus signs off as He started, "I Am coming quickly!" Aren't you glad? Are you able to say, come, Lord Jesus? Maybe you still have something that you think is important left to do in this life. Have you started to build your kingdom here on earth and need the time to finish it? Have you not been with us to understand that it is all going to burn? Or maybe after searching your heart you realize that you are just a citizen of this earth and not of the Kingdom of God. This is why the final exhortation is that the grace our Lord be with you. If you understand grace, you are going to long for His Return. We don't deserve anything but the plagues of this book, but God have given us His grace through Christ.

Let's end with this thought:

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the [a]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

God's Grace is His Unmerited Favor
You can receive it today by asking for it!

Stand Pray Closing Song