

Be Careful of What You Worship — Revelation 22:6-11

Stand Read Pray

We have now come to the end of the book of Revelation and the last section of the book, the epilogue. This section is very important because it teaches us several things. The importance to be waiting, to keep our eyes on God, to trust His word, to openly teach and proclaim this book, To know that God's word to man is now complete, and to let everyone know the cry to salvation is still in effect. This is just to name a few! We think a simple Amen could come at verse 6, but no, something needs to be done about what we just read. We must act on what we know.

First, we will see read, believe, and wait!

Revelation 22:6 – Read!

Then he said to me, “These words are faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

Why do we read the scriptures?

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.

Jesus said:

John 5:39-40

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

He already said of Himself

Revelation 3:14

And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God

And we know that Jesus is

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

We read the word because He is the word!

But do you trust it? Do you believe that the bible is faithful and true? Look at the end of verse 7

Revelation 22:7 – Believe!

“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

It is one thing to read and to know, but a whole other this to keep. It means, “Keeping for the fulfillment of the prophecy” In other words “If you believe it, you will keep it!”

We were told this at the beginning of the book of Revelation

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.

We are not to just read that Jesus is coming again but to believe it!

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

But we need to know He is coming soon! Do you believe this?

Revelation 22:6-7 – Wait

And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. “Behold, I am coming quickly!”

We talked about this a couple of Sundays ago so please go back to that lesson to study this in depth. But just to remind ourselves that Jesus is coming at any moment.

Two verses to remind us of the fact that there will be a quickness to this and that we are to expect it at any moment...

1 Corinthians 15:52

in a **moment**, in the **twinkling** of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed

Luke 12:40

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect

Now we get into the title of our message today to be careful of what we worship.

Revelation 22:7-8

Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. **Worship God.”**

Now I don't think that John was actually worshiping the angel. But because any semblance of worship of anything but God is forbidden, he is warned not to do it. This already happened once in chapter 19...

Revelation 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. **Worship God!**”

We need to be careful of what we worship. We need to be careful what we put in place as an excuse for our worship of God. God is not trying to limit us He is trying to protect us!

Exodus 20:4-5

You shall not make for yourself a carved image—**any likeness of anything** that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.

We see examples of what happens when worship is put into the wrong place and man starts to accept worship of himself.

Acts 12:21-23

So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!” Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because **he did not give glory to God**. And he was eaten by worms and died.

Daniel 4:30-32

30 The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” 31 While the word was still in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! 32 And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, **until you know that the Most High rules** in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.”

This is why we need to be careful of who we have lead the church...

1 Timothy 3:6

... not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same **condemnation as the devil**.

What is that?

Turn to Isaiah 14:12-15

How you are fallen from heaven,
O [d]Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
13 For you have said in your heart:
'I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.
15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Turn to Ezekiel 28:12-17

12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God:
'You were the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone was your covering:
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes
Was prepared for you on the day you were created.
14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers;
I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.
15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you.
16 "By the abundance of your trading
You became filled with violence within,
And you sinned;

Therefore I cast you as a profane thing
Out of the mountain of God;
And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,
From the midst of the fiery stones.

17 **“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;**

You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;
I cast you to the ground,
I laid you before kings,
That they might gaze at you.

We need to be careful of what we worship so we don't trap others into the same condemnation as the devil. We need to be careful of anything that appeals to our flesh. We must take this example of the angel here and learn to have humility towards God and make our worship about Him and not us!

A couple other stories to remind us...

Turn to Acts 3:1-12

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. 12 So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel,

why do you marvel at this? Or **why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?**

Turn to Acts 14:8-18

8 And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. 9 This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. 11 Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" 12 And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.

14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out 15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, 16 who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." 18 **And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.**

We need to be careful of what we worship. We can worship prophecy. We can worship celebrity pastors. We can worship music. We can even use some of these things as a way to worship God while unknowingly allowing them to become an idol themselves.

Pray for people like Jack Hibbs who have large influences. The temptation is real. I am glad that I pastor a small church. I am so grateful to Him for giving me so many years in the desert. I am so glad for the years of small things! I know myself as God has shown me. I need to be careful of self-worship! I am a nobody and glad for that. I am glad that on some Sundays or Wednesdays that I walk away not sure if I did the scripture justice. I am glad that I know that I am wholly inadequate. Why? Because then He gets the glory!

Let us remember...

John 4:24

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth

Just one more thing on this angel. This not a proof text that we become angles after we die. We don't get wings after someone prays for us after we die. That is not the purpose of the angel's statement. Remember the word angel means messenger. He says he is a fellow servant, just like the prophets and all those who serve and worship God. Also, remember that angels are created beings just like you and I, different of course, but created by God for His service.

Now two more quick things before we go

Revelation 22:10

And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

The book of Revelation is to be taught and shared. It is to not be sealed up. Pastors and Teachers who stay away from prophecy and being disobedient to the direct call of the bible. Why is it that we are called names and criticized for simply obeying scripture?

Here is what a couple quotes of those type of people...

I have to give credit to Andy Woods because he made me aware of these quotes and provided the slides.

Rick Warren from his book Purpose Driven Life



Rick Warren



Purpose Driven Life, 285-86.

“When the disciples wanted to talk about prophecy, Jesus quickly switched the conversation to **evangelism**. He wanted them to concentrate on their mission in the world. He said in essence, “**The details of my return are none of your business.** What is your business is the mission I have given you. Focus on that!” If you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission, not figuring out prophecy. **Speculating on the exact timing of Christ’s return** is futile, because Jesus said, “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” Since Jesus said He didn’t know the day or hour, why should you try to figure it out? What we do know for sure is this: Jesus will not return until everyone God wants to hear the Good News has heard it.”



Rick Warren



Purpose Driven Life, 285-86.

Jesus said, “The Good News about God’s kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come.” If you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission, not figuring out prophecy. It is easy to get **distracted** and sidetracked from your mission because **Satan** would rather have you do anything besides sharing your faith. He will let you do all kinds of good things as long as you don’t take anyone to heaven with you. But the moment you become **serious about your mission**, expect the Devil to throw all kinds of diversions at you. When that happens, remember the words of Jesus: “Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is **not fit for the Kingdom of God.**”

And please understand that I have many issues with the Gospel Coalition but not to say the least by Mark Dever here

Eschatology A Sin?



*“Therefore, I conclude that it is sin to divide the body of Christ—to divide the body that he prayed would be united. Therefore for us to conclude that we must agree upon a certain view of alcohol, or a certain view of schooling, or a certain view of meat sacrificed to idols, or a certain view of the millennium in order to have fellowship together is, I think, not only unnecessary for the body of Christ, but it is therefore both unwarranted and therefore condemned by scripture. **So if you’re a pastor and you’re listening to me, you understand me correctly if you think I’m saying you are in sin if you lead your congregation to have a statement of faith that requires a particular millennial view.** I do not understand why that has to be a matter of uniformity in order to have Christian unity in a local congregation.”*

Justin Taylor, “Dever: ‘You Are in Sin If You Lead Your Congregation to Have a Statement of Faith that Requires a Particular Millennial View,’” online: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/dever-you-are-in-sin-if-you-lead-your/>, July 14 2009, accessed May 28, 2019.

They should realize they are fulfilling prophecy...

2 Peter 3:3-4

knowing this first: that **scoffers** will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, **“Where is the promise of His coming?”**

And finally...

Revelation 22:11

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”

The choice is yours. Do you want to just keep living the way you are or are you ready to make a change. If not, just keep living the way you are. Take your chances. Maybe these things are not “True and Faithful”. Why just think of it like this; If I am wrong, what have I lost? I lived a life of hope. Believed in something that gave me purpose. Shared in it with people that are like minded and became closer than family. Found strength through the trials of life. Not too bad a deal.

But what if we are right? You are faced with an eternity of telling yourself that you should have listened all the while suffering in eternity for your sins. That

doesn't sound so smart to me. You want to be on the right side of eternity, and you can be today.

Recognize- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Repent - From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Receive - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

Stand Pray Song