

What is Jesus saying to His Church today?

Meditations on the seven Churches of Revelation

Session 2

Living for Eternity - Rev 22:12

I. Review

- A. Context
- B. Who is Jesus?
- C. John's experience
- D. What is Jesus saying?

II. Do you know who you are?

A. Crown of creation

1. God's opinion of humanity - Genesis 1 – very good
2. Jesus's delight - Prov 8 – delight in the children of man
3. Higher than the angels
 - a. Ps 8:5
 - b. Heb 2:7
 - c. 1 Cor 6:13
4. Communion with God
 - a. 1 Jn 1:13 – our fellowship with the Father & the Son
 - b. 1 Cor 1:9 – called into fellowship with Jesus
 - c. 2 Cor 13:14- fellowship of the HS
 - d. Prov 3:32 – God is intimate with upright
 - e. Job 29:4 – friendship of God over his tent
 - f. Ps 25:14 – secret of Yahweh is with those who fear Him
5. Rule & Reign with Jesus
 - a. Rev 1:6
 - b. Rev 5:10
 - c. 1 Pet 2:9
6. To receive an eternal inheritance
 - a. 1 Pet 1:4 – born again to obtain an inheritance
 - b. Col 3:24 – reward of an inheritance
 - c. Col 1:12 – Share in the inheritance
7. Greatly beloved – more than the world
 - a. Col 3:12
 - b. 1 Thes 1:4
 - c. Rom 1:7

III. Eternity in our hearts

A. Eccl 3:11

B. Desire for greatness

1. To be considered worthy
2. To be beautiful
3. To be loved
4. To be valued
5. To be honored
6. To be enjoyed
7. To hear “Well done”
8. To be rich
9. To be powerful
10. It all comes from God!

IV. The Day of Reward

A. Rev 22:12; Mt 16:27

1. There is a very real day coming

B. Eph 2:8-10

1. Grace unto salvation
2. Good works – manifold Grace to do great things in His eyes.
 - a. 1 Pet 4:10 – serve one another as stewards of the manifold grace of God

C. 2 Cor 5:9-10; Rom 14:10-12

1. Ambition
2. Everything done in the body
 - a. What we do or don't do
 - b. What we say - Beliefs & opinions
 - c. What we consume – where do we satisfy our appetites
 - d.
 - e. What we do on the inside
 - (1) Our heart condition – He see every movement of our heart
 - f. What we teach
 - (1) James 3:1; Rev 2;
 - g. What we pursue
 - (1) Obedience – Heb 6:11
3. Good or evil
 - a. There are consequences to all that we do

D. 1 Cor 3:10-15 – the Test of Fire

1. Building upon the true foundation, but build wisely
2. Results
 - a. Rewarded openly – exchange rate
 - b. This life is the only time in our eternal existence with this “exchange rate.” We offer our weak devotion and obedience to God and receive eternal rewards. God pays us so well

for all that we do. He remembers every small act of love, even giving someone a cup of water (Mt. 10:42).

- c. Suffer loss – as through fire
 - d. Shame - I Thess 3:12-13; 1 Jn 2:28
3. Dream – 2/20/11

I was watching as people were going to a place of waiting for their rewards in eternity. It was different than I thought. I saw people I knew and those I didn't. Instead of an immediate and glorious encounter with Jesus, for many there was a long wait. Some I saw on their knees and suddenly they would vanish with a wail. I knew they had entered eternity with no reward! For others there was a long delay as their lives were weighed. I had a great somberness in my spirit as I felt I hadn't taught seriously enough on this topic.

V. How do we respond to Jesus?

- A. Will you go for the gold?**
- B. Agree, repent and rise up.**
- C. He has exceeding abundance waiting for you.**

VI. Further study & meditation

Gen 15:1	God Himself is our greatest Reward	
	God to Abraham: Do not fear, I am your shield and your great reward.	Ps 16:5; Ps 73:26; Ps 119:57; John 17:3
Eph 2:8-9	Salvation by Grace alone	
	Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.	
Eph 2:10	We were created for good works	
	For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.	
Heb 12:1-2	Run the race for the crown!	
	... let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross...	
	Rev 14:14 The harvest for the one with the crown! The crown of Joy that He won in his race.	
	Stephanos = crown = wreath I Cor 9:25-27 2 Tim 4:7-8 James 1:12 1 Pet 5:4 1 Pet 5:4 1 Thess 2:19 Rev 2:10 Isa 61:3	Run to win the prize! Crown of Righteousness Crown of Life Crown of Glory Crown of Joy at the coming of Jesus Crown of Life Crown of Beauty Oil of Gladness Garment of Praise
	Our wealth in eternity	
Rev 2:9	I know your tribulation and poverty, but you are rich!	
Rev 3:17	You say you are rich, prospered, need nothing, but you are poor, wretched, blind, naked, pitiable.	
	Rewards vary between believers	
I Cor 15:41-42	As the glory of the sun varies from the moon and the stars, so it is with the resurrection of the dead.	We will have varying degrees of glory...
	Pursue/Overcome/Mature/Excel	Reward
Matt 5:1-12	Poor in spirit	Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven
Matt 5:1-12	Mourn	They shall receive comfort
Matt 5:1-12	Meek	Inherit the earth
Matt 5:1-12	Hunger & thirst for righteousness	Satisfaction
Matt 5:1-12	Merciful	Receive mercy

Matt 5:1-12	Pure in heart	See God
Matt 5:1-12	Peacemakers	Called Sons of God
Matt 5:1-12	Persecuted for righteousness	Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven
Matt 5:1-12	Reviled and persecuted on my account	Great is your reward in heaven
Matt 6:1-4	Giving in secret	Rewarded openly by the Father
Matt 6:5-15	Praying in secret	Rewarded openly by the Father
Matt 6:16-18	Fasting	Rewarded openly by the Father
Matt 6:33	Seek first the Kingdom of God	All that you need for this life
Rev 2:7	Be victorious in your first love	Eat of the tree of life
Rev 2:11	Be faithful unto death	Crown of Life Not be hurt by the second death
Rev 2:17	Be victorious over false grace	Eat of the hidden manna, bright gem with a new name
Rev 2:26-29	Hold fast what you have until I come. Do not tolerate immorality and consuming what is given to demons.	Authority over nations. Rule them as I rule. He will have the morning star.
Rev 3:5	Wake up and strengthen what is about to die.	Clothed in dazzling garments. His reputation will remain and I will declare it before my Father and all the angels.
Rev 3:11	Hold fast what you have until I come that no one takes your crown.	He will be a pillar in the temple of my God - never leaving the presence of God. I will write upon him the name of my God, city, and my own new name!
Rev 3:20-21	Hears my voice and opens Is victorious in moving out of lukewarmness	we will fellowship together. He will sit on my throne with me.
Luk 6:35	Love your enemies. Do good, lending expecting nothing in return	Your reward will be great and you will be called Sons of the Most High.
Col 3:23	Slaves, work as unto Jesus and not men	You will receive an inheritance as your reward.
Heb 10:35	Do not throw away your confidence	It has great reward
Heb 11:6	Believe that God exists and seek him	He rewards our faith.
I Cor 3:14	Build with gold, silver precious stones	He will receive a reward
Mt 10:41	Receives a prophet ...	receives a prophet's reward
Mt 10:41	Receives a righteous person ...	receives a righteous person's reward.
Mt 10:42	Whoever gives a drink of cold water because they are a disciple...	Will not lose his reward...
Mk 9:41	Whoever gives you a drink because you follow me...	Will not lose his reward...
Matt 5:19	Keeps my commands and teaches others to do the same	Called great in the kingdom of heaven
I Cor 3:8	He who plants and he who waters	Each will receive his wages according to his labor.

Rev 16:15	Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his garments...	so he will not be naked and exposed...
Matt 18:1-4	Servant of all	Greatest in the Kingdom
	Condition	Loss of reward
Matt 5:19	Relaxes my commands and teaches others to do the same	Called least in the kingdom of heaven
2 Jn 1:8	Watch yourselves	That you may not lose what you/we have worked for but may win a full reward.
1 Cor 3:15	If anyone's work is burned up	He will suffer loss, but he will be saved.
Lk 19:11f	Parable of the 10 Minas	Equal start
Mt 25:14f	Parable of the 10 Talents	Variable start
	What about?	
Mt 20:1-16	Parable of the laborers	Equal pay according to generosity of the Master
		This parable does not address effort... it assumes they all work hard during their time of labor.
	When do we receive our rewards?	
Rev 11:18	The time has come for the dead to be judged	rewarding your servants ...
Rev 22:12	I am coming soon	I bring my rewards with me to repay everyone for what he has done.
2 Cor 5:10 Rom 14:10	We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ	That each may receive what is due him for what he has done, good or evil...
	Nakedness = Loss of rewards?	
Rev 3:17-18	What is the shame of nakedness?	Is it coming to eternity and having no rewards?
Rev 16:15	Stay awake and guard your garments	Stay aware until death or Jesus returns.
Gen 2:25; 3:7-11	What of the nakedness of Adam & Eve	Some think they didn't see their nakedness because they were clothed with glory - in the image of God... garments of light?

Sdss

Gen 1:25 God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.
Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
Gen 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
Gen 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
Gen 1:29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;
Gen 1:30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food"; and it was so.
Gen 1:31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Pro 8:26 While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, Nor the first dust of the world.
Pro 8:27 "When He established the heavens, I was there, When He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,
Pro 8:28 When He made firm the skies above, When the springs of the deep became fixed,
Pro 8:29 When He set for the sea its boundary So that the water would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth;
Pro 8:30 Then I was beside Him, *as* a master workman; And I was daily *His* delight, Rejoicing always before Him,
Pro 8:31 Rejoicing in the world, His earth, And *having* my delight in the sons of men.

Psa 8:3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained;
Psa 8:4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?
Psa 8:5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!

Heb 2:6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?
Heb 2:7 "YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;
Heb 2:8 YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.

1Co 6:1 Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?
1Co 6:2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts?
1Co 6:3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?