

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

5.26.2024

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

The Alpha and Omega

## Revelation 22: 6 – 10, 12 – 13, 16 – 21

Are we, as believers, anticipating the Lord's return? Whether the Lord comes for mankind individually or his return for the church, will we be among those who love him and confess him as our savior and lord? Will he find us doing that which he hath commanded us to do? Will he find us eager to see him? Will he find us watching and ready for him, and does our heart rejoice with exceedingly great joy while we are awaiting his return? Christ is the beginning and the end of all things, which means that he was at the beginning, and he will continue to be there through the end to eternity. Christ has always existed and will forever exist. He has no beginning, nor will he have any end with respect to time, for he is everlasting to everlasting.

**Psalm 90: 2,....**Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place....before....thou hast formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God....

The written word which we have, repeatedly affirms the eternal state of God. Nothing came before God, and nothing will ever come after him.

**Isaiah 40: 28,....**hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard that the everlasting God, the Lord, the creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding....

In our darkest hour, as Christians, we have the ability to stand firm in the Lord, because we have trusted in his word. Therefore, we can rest securely in his everlasting love, for he is the one who is the first and the last, the one who indicates the eternal nature of the Godhead. He is the author and finisher of our faith.

**Hebrews 12: 2,....**looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith....

This signifies that he is the beginning of our faith, and he will carry it through to completion. He is the fulfilling of the law, and he is the beginning of the gospel of grace. He is the justifier of all who will confess his name, and he is the glorification of all who have by faith, believed.

**Isaiah 9: 7,....**of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end....to order it, and to establish it....from henceforth even for ever....the Lord of hosts will perform this....

Christ has been from the beginning, he came, he now is, and he is coming again. He was before us, he walked among us, he shared himself with us, and we earnestly wait for the day when he will return and bring us unto himself. There are no limits to the supremacy of God, his authority cannot be questioned, neither can it be challenged. Therefore, one day, he will cause his everlasting peace to shine forth, a peace which has been from the beginning.

**Revelation 22: 6 – 10, 12 – 13,....**he said....these things are faithful and true....things which must shortly be done....behold I come quickly, blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book....I John saw these things and heard them....I fell down to worship....then saith he unto me, see thou do it not....of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God....he saith unto me, seal not....the prophecy....for the time is at hand....behold I come quickly....my reward is with me, to give every man according to his work....I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last....

Christ has promised that he will return, this means that it is not if he will return, but when he will return. Therefore, the nature of his return is quickly. This should motivate all believers to earnestly strive to see the gospel of the saving grace of Christ prosper. Those who neglect the warnings will deprive themselves of the blessings of his promises. Humanity, including the church, misunderstands the warning: behold I come quickly. He does not say he is coming right away, even though his coming may happen at any time, he says behold I come quickly. This means that when he comes it will happen suddenly, and it will be complete. There will not be a time of reckoning, nor a time for repentance, for that time is now.

**2 Corinthians 6: 2,....**for he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee, behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation....

**1 Corinthians 15: 51 – 52,....**we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye....we shall be changed....

So, how is it that these temporary, corrupt bodies, can possibly enter into an eternal life with God. They cannot, and this also includes those, who by faith, have believed in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Just as we were transformed instantly from our sinful nature, which we inherited from Adam, we were transformed into the image and likeness, and righteousness of Christ, so will our natural body be transformed, in the twinkling of an eye, to a new, glorified, heavenly body. So shall it be with the coming of Christ, it will be so instantaneous that there is no measurement of time that can explain it. There are many things that God has chosen to reveal unto us, and it is important for us to understand them, not just for the sake of having his given ability to share with others his saving grace, but to know that we cannot be obedient to God if we do not understand. We must continue to study and to pray, so that God might be able to use us as willing servants to help in calling others to repentance.

**Revelation 22: 16 – 21,....**I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things....the spirit and the bride say, come....whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely....I testify....the words of the prophecy....if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues....if any man shall take away from the words....God shall take away his part out of the book of life....surely I come quickly....even so, come, Lord Jesus....

The redemption that God offers, which is made possible through Christ, begin even before the foundation of the world as we know it, and it will continue through to the new heaven and the new earth, and with this are God purposes and plans revealed as he opens unto mankind his understanding. The word of God expands into many promises, and warnings, and prophecies, some that have yet to be fulfilled, but its main purpose is to reveal Christ and his saving grace to all of humanity.

God's word is unchanging and unchangeable and can never be broken. Therefore, to those who would use the truth of the revelation of Christ in order to deceive others, there will be a high price to pay, and even though through the book of Revelation these warnings are specifically addressed unto those who will tamper with the truthfulness of these prophetic warnings, the principle of these warnings stand firm for the written word of God as a whole. This means that for those who have never confessed the Lord Jesus Christ, those who have rejected and have spent their time on earth persuading others to do the same by distorting the truth of God's word, these will be eternally separated from God. If your name was never written in the book of life from the beginning, then there is no name to remove. Yes, there is a place for it, that is your part in the book of life, but due to a continued lack of faith and rejection of Gods saving grace, that which was offered was never received, therefore, the offer was removed. Now, for the believer who tampers with the truth of Gods word, he will still retain his eternal salvation, but he will forfeit his heavenly rewards and benefits of the holy city.

**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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works....

The word of God cannot be compared to anything else, for it is outside of time and place, it is the Alpha and Omega, the everlasting to everlasting. It is the word of life, the hope of our salvation, and even though man at times distort its true meaning, it can never be changed for it defines the power and the authority of the one true God, and it communicates Gods love and compassion to a world that is lost and in need of his saving grace.

**Revelation 22: 21,....**the grace of Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Let us Pray.

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