

I. WE ARE TO PRAISE

- A. The Angel of REV. 21:9 continues to speak to John
 - 1. This is a solemn conclusion to the inspired writings of John
 - a. And with this chapter the Canon of the Scripture is closed
 - b. There will be nothing more added
 - c. PSA. 119:89 – “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”
 - 2. This is neither filler nor fluff – God continues to teach through His Word
 - a. PSA. 119:160 – “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”
 - b. He doesn’t waste space or time
 - c. MATT. 5:18 – “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”
 - d. Heaven and Earth will pass away (and HAVE at this point!)
 - e. But HIS WORD shall NEVER pass away!
 - 3. These verses have many great truths still for us
 - a. A message to each one of us
 - b. First, that we are to PRAISE God
 - c. To truly worship Him (vs. 8 & 9)
- B. We do not worship idols, individuals, institutions, or inventions
 - 1. We worship God and HIM alone!
 - a. EXO. 34:14 – “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:”
 - b. MATT. 4:10 – “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
 - c. Question: Why do you worship God?
 - 2. 5 Categories of Church People:
 - a. Generational – I’ll be here forever
 - b. Confrontational – I’ll be back when you’re gone
 - c. Recreational – I’ll be here when I want
 - d. Relational – I’ll be here as long as they are
 - e. Devotional – I’ll be here because God is honored
 - 3. Don’t make idols
 - a. Not of a person, not of an institution, not of an invention (ritual)
 - b. JOHN 4:24 – “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
 - c. “This is my church... my family built this church...”
 - d. “I’ll be here after you’re long gone...”

- e. Is your religion a crutch to pull out when you're limping?
 - f. Is your religion a convenience when you have time?
 - g. Or is your Savior the crossroads of your life?
 - i. A place that everything else passes through
 - ii. A place where decisions are made
 - iii. A place where paths are selected?
- C. Anything that displaces God in our lives is an idol
1. EXO. 20:3 – “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (4) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:”
 2. HYMN: Nothing between my soul and the Savior,
 - a. So that His blessed face may be seen;
 - b. Nothing preventing the least of His favor,
 - c. Keep the way clear! Let nothing between.
 3. We are to PRAISE

II. WE ARE TO PREPARE

- A. Read this book (vs. 9)
1. There was an old book in the 60's (Abbie Hoffman) Steal This Book
 - a. No one has to steal a Bible
 - b. It's on the Internet, in Hotel drawers, on your phone
 - c. It's in your closets, it's in your car, it's in pew
 - d. Praise God, if you have a KJV it's in your HAND
 - e. But is it in your HEAD? Is it in your HEART?
 2. Here is a call to READ this book
 - a. We need to be hearers AND doers of the Word
 - b. We know that verse, but don't neglect the first part
 - c. Just because we are admonished to be doers
 - d. Does NOT remove our obligation to be HEARERS!
 3. We will NEVER know WHAT to do for God until we let Him TELL US
 - a. Boys. Maybe kids in general, I certainly know I was guilty
 - b. Don't walk away in the middle of the instructions
 - c. You will MISS a vital step
- B. STUDY this book (vs. 10)
1. These words are not sealed – as we've seen, little mystery at all
 - a. The book of Revelation truly makes sense!
 - b. It is NOT a closed book
 - c. It should be preached in churches
 - d. It should be studied!
 2. God's Word is a storehouse of inexhaustible treasures
 3. Dig out those gold nuggets! STUDY

- C. 2 TIM. 2:15 – “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

III. WE ARE TO PROCLAIM

- A. These verses speak of PROPHECY (vs. 10)
1. Tells us to SEAL not
 2. There have been those in the past who refused to preach Revelation
 - a. Churches that ignored this book
 - b. Pastors who recommended against members reading it
 - c. That is wrong!
 3. Turn back to REV. 1:1-3
 - a. BLESSED! That means a state of God’s ACTIVE favor!
 - b. It is not a book to be sealed up – the TIME IS AT HAND!
- B. We are to PREACH and PROCLAIM the truths of this book
1. People want to know, and people need to know
 2. It was fear of the Rapture that led to my Salvation
 3. “Our pastor is preaching through Revelation right now...”
 - a. They might just start a conversation with you!
 - b. People are interested and (often) have misconceptions
 - c. Proclaim this BOOK
- C. ROM. 10:14 – “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”

IV. WE ARE TO PERCEIVE

- A. Jesus steps in to add weight and power to the next proclamation (vs. 12 & 13)
1. We are to be LOOKING for the Lord’s coming
 - a. He said He would come QUICKLY
 - b. Sooner than you expect it and BEFORE you can react
 - c. You must be perceptive – see that He is the only way of Salvation
 2. There will be none who will see the Rapture and THEN get Saved
 - a. It is worth repeating
 - b. If you do not get Saved while the Spirit convicts you today
 - c. There will be NO opportunity while the LIES DELUDE you then
 - d. 2 THESS. 2:11 – “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:”
 3. As death finds us, so does eternity
 - a. 2 SAM. 14:14 – “For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.”
 - b. There is no second chance afterwards

- B. We are to be LOOKING for the REWARDS He brings with Him!
 - 1. Why WOULDN'T we serve Him for His rewards?
 - a. 2 COR. 5:10 – “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
 - b. We are all in the race, you cannot simply “not run”
 - c. Why not STRIVE for mastery?
 - 2. Even if death first finds us before the Rapture
 - a. Our influence goes beyond the grave
 - b. HEB. 11:4 – “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”
 - 3. Used to be a pond on the farm when I was growing up
 - a. A rock tossed into a pond, may go to the bottom
 - b. But the waves go OUTWARD
- C. We must be Praisers, Preparers, Proclaimers, and be Perceivers
 - 1. Because there will be only two classes of people
 - 2. The Bible SPECIFICALLY calls them out (vs. 14 & 15)

V. TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE

- A. The Forgiven
 - 1. The redeemed saints of God
 - a. They enter into the gates of the city
 - b. They eat of the tree of Life
 - 2. This tree was lost in the first Adam
 - 3. But was regained in the Lord Jesus Christ (the second Adam)
- B. The Unforgiven
 - 1. This is a roll call of those who will not be in the presence of God
 - 2. These will not have access to the city
 - 3. These will be in the Lake of Fire throughout all of Eternity
 - 4. REV. 21:8 – “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”
- C. Which are you?
 - 1. He wants you to come to Him
 - 2. You can be forgiven all your sin
 - 3. Be Saved Today!