

THE LAST WORDS OF SCRIPTURE

By Keith Greer

How important are one's last words? Last words of a parent, husband, wife, children, or good friend will always be remembered. It is the last thing they will speak to anyone – words we will always cherish.

Have you ever considered the "final words" of God to mankind? Let us turn our attention to the book of Revelation, chapter twenty-two, verses twelve through twenty.

"...to give every one according to his work" (v.12) God is going to judge each one according to his works. Not my parents', not Adam's, but MY WORK! Blame or praise will be where it belongs, on my shoulder!

"I am the Alpha and Omega, ... the First and the Last." (v. 13) This is His authority and right to render judgment; He is the Son of God! To be sure, His verdict will be just and impartial.

"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life ..." (v.14) Blessings will be given to the obedient. This principle has been eternal. God expects man to obey Him in all things. Hebrews 5:9

"But outside ... sexually immoral... whoever loves and practices a lie." (v.15) Those who live and practice sin will find themselves on the outside looking in, separated from God forever!

".. I am the Root and Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." (v. 16) He is the only Savior promised through prophecy; He came and fulfilled His Father's will. Revelation 5:5

"And the Spirit and the bride say 'Come!' And let Him who hears say, 'Come!' ..." (v.17) This is the Lord's invitation to all of mankind. His grace, mercy, and the power of His shed blood is for the taking in simple trusting obedience.

"... If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues written in this book; 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, ..." (vv.18,19) God gives easily understood instructions concerning the handling of this book. DO NOT TAMPER WITH IT! Yet, that is exactly what men have done. Is any other book so twisted, perverted, and taken out of context than Revelation? So many teach doctrines which are contrary to plain Bible teaching: 1,000 year reign, establishment of physical kingdom in Israel, purified earth, and a host of other strange conclusions. It is dangerous to tamper with the word of God!

"... Surely I am coming quickly ... The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all." (vv. 20, 21) This statement is telling of the certainty of His coming. God's grace will keep us until then. They were comforting words for those who were suffering such intense persecutions at the time. For us also, to fully understand the reward will be worth the struggle! AMEN!

What can we say about these final words? It should give us much to ponder. These words are as sure as any other passage of scripture. Yet, they have much more meaning, since it was the last message the Holy Spirit revealed to us concerning the mind of God!

This reminds me of the final words of Christ prior to His death on the cross. " ...It is finished! ..." {John 19:30} Jesus had finished the work His Father sent Him to accomplish: the sacrifice for sin, the debt paid! Man now has hope. Man's awful work was done and God's wonderful work had now been revealed unto men—a remedy for sin! The final words of scripture can be counted on and give us many things to soberly ponder! ***