SBC – Nov. 1, 2026
Revelation 22:16-17 (NKJV)
"The Final Invitation"

#59

Prayer

The Book of Revelation deals with final things – the consummation of God's plan for the ages. We are given an inspired outline in Revelation 1:19.

Slide # 1
Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline
Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)
19 "Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which will take place **after this.**

- "have seen" **–** Past (Vision of Christ) **– *Ch. 1***
- "which are" – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- "after this" – Future (Post-Church Age) –Ch. 4-22
- - Scene in heaven –Ch. 4-5
- - Tribulation – Ch. 6-18
- - Second Coming – Ch. 19
- - Kingdom – Ch. 20
- - ***Eternal State – Ch. 21-22***

All of History has been moving forward to the climax of God's JUDGMENT on the world, culminating in the second coming and the setting up of the Kingdom of our Lord.

God has always **desired relationship** with people. He created us in His image so that we might have relationship with Him. But **Adam and Eve rebelled** and consequently were driven out of the garden of Eden and sentenced with death. In their fallen condition, they began to reproduce fallen offspring. Not long after this, the preacher Enoch came on the scene who prophesied about the judgment of the wicked at the Second Coming.

Slide # 2

> **Jude 14–15 (NKJV)**
> **14** Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, **the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,**
> **15** to **execute judgment** on all, to convict all who are **ungodly** among them of all their **ungodly** deeds which they have committed in an **ungodly** way, and of all the harsh things which **ungodly** sinners have spoken against Him."

Enoch's message could be titled, "***Judgment on the Ungodly***."

History moves on, but the end is not imminent yet! Major developments in history must take place before the great concluding day of God's judgment is imminent.

However, Adam and Eve's descendants in mass rebelled, resulting in the worldwide flood, but **Noah** found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Gen. 6:8).

Following the flood, organized rebellion centered on the **tower of Babel**. God then dispersed the people by confusing the language and then proceeded to choose a man by the name of **Abram** through whom He would build a chosen nation – namely Israel.

History moves on, but the prophetic end is not yet imminent!

Israel consistently wandered from God. The prophets warned of coming judgment on the nation and sprinkled in warnings of an ultimate last days judgment on the whole world.

Slide # 3

> **Isaiah 26:21 (NKJV)**
> **21** For behold, the LORD comes out of His place **To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity**; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain.

History moves on and God's people Israel eventually go into captivity, but the end is not yet imminent.

During the time of the Babylonian Captivity, Daniel (about 530 B.C.) received a revelation that God has 490 years of special disciplinary dealings that are yet in store for Israel, as seen in Daniel 9:24-27. They would begin to unfold with the command to restore and build Jerusalem in 445 B.C. by the Persian king Artaxerxes (cf. Neh. 2:1-8).

History moved on and the 70 weeks of Daniel began to unfold, but the end was not yet imminent. Daniel was specifically told to seal up the words of his prophecy because the time was not yet.

Slide # 4

> **Daniel 12:4 (NKJV)**

- **4** "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and **<u>seal the book until the time of the end;</u>** many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

Daniel 12:9 (NKJV)

- **9** And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and **<u>sealed till the time of the end</u>**.

At the end of OT revelation – 400 years before the time of Christ, Malachi writes.

<u>Slide # 5</u>

Malachi 4:1 (NKJV)
1 "For behold, the **<u>day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble</u>**. And the day which is coming shall **<u>burn them up</u>**," Says the Lord of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.

And yet that day was not yet imminent!

Then comes the **1st coming** of Christ fulfilling 69 of the 70 weeks of Daniel (that is 483 years of 490 prophesied) at the time of His triumphal entry on Passion Week. This leaves 1 week – 1 seven-year period of special dealings with Israel to yet be fulfilled.

But then **God's program with Israel was put on hold**. **A GAP PROGRAM** then went into effect, which is called **<u>THE CHURCH AGE</u>**.

<u>And NOW the end is imminent!</u>

The Church age SIGNALS the end is at hand. The coming of Christ for the Church is ever imminent. Paul thought it might take place during his lifetime (1 Thess. 4:16-17). When Christ comes for the Church, it will **trigger** all the last days events as successively revealed in the book of Revelation.

<u>Slide # 6</u>

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV)
11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, <u>upon whom the ends of the ages have come</u>.

For this reason John is told not to seal the words of this prophecy.

Slide # 7

Revelation 22:10 (NKJV)
10 And he said to me, "**Do not seal the words of the prophecy** of this book, **for the time is at hand**.

Hence, the emphasis 3 times in Revelation 22 concerning the **SOON** return of the Lord. It is a "**prophetic soon,**" meaning it is **imminent**. It could happen at any time, and when it does, it will usher in the momentous events of the book of Revelation. This Church age Period is right at the end of the ages that ushers in end-time events. There are no more intervening periods. **These things are imminent**. The time is AT HAND!

As we come to the conclusion of Revelation, we see a great contrast between the **blessed** who have access to the eternal city of God – the New Jerusalem and those who are **OUTSIDE** in the Lake of fire.

In Revelation 21-22, the lost are characterized by a **rebellious nature that reflects itself in a sinful lifestyle,** and in contrast, the saved are characterized **by obedience** – not perfect obedience but a pattern of life that seeks to follow the Lord, giving testimony to true saving faith. Christ is coming to punish the aints and reward the saints according to their works.

Revelation 22:6-21 forms an **epilogue** (a concluding postscript) for the book of Revelation. It contains all manner of concluding warnings, exhortations, and encouragements that properly round out the revelation of God.

Today our study is in 22:16-17, which I have titled, "***The Final Invitation***." In a real sense, the whole book of Revelation is like one long tract warning of coming judgment and the need to be right with the Lord because judgment is on the horizon!

We now come to the final invitation, the final invitation in the Bible, the final invitation in the book of Revelation, which comes right at the very end of the book.

It's like we should take all the stern and solemn warnings of coming judgment given throughout the entire book and take them to heart. Flee to Jesus while you can. Now is the time to come to Jesus! He is our only hope! It's time to be ready – it's time to live ready!
Revelation 22:16 (NKJV)

16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

At this point, Jesus **speaks personally**. The message of this book is from Jesus, although much of it has come through the mediation of an angel.

Jesus is His name. It means "***YHWH is salvation***". It literally means ***GOD-SAVIOR.*** In a word, that is the essence of the GOSPEL – Jesus is God – Jesus Savior! This is what you must personally appropriate by believing in order to be saved. Saving faith calls on Jesus as Savior and Lord!

The name Jesus is intimately aligned with His **HUMANITY** – being given to Him in conjunction with His birth. It is the name that emphasizes Him being **SAVIOR**. He had to become a Man so that He might die for our sins and be our Savior. (cf. Heb. 2)

Slide # 8

> **Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)**
> **21** And she will bring forth a Son, and **you shall call His name JESUS**, for **He will save His people from their sins**."

This personal word in Revelation 22:16 from our God-Savior should be very encouraging to the Church.

He specifically says He sent His angel to **testify to you these things in the churches.**

> "The reference to "the churches" is of significance because this is the first reference to the word "church" (Gr., *ekklesia*) since the message to the seven churches. The reason for this is that the church is not involved in the Great Tribulation." – ***John Walvoord***

The Church is conspicuously missing from the Tribulation scene of Revelation 6-18. As an example, note the following.

Slide # 9

> "He who has an **ear, let him hear** what the **Spirit says to the churches**." (2:7; 2:11; 2:17; 2:29; 3:6; 3:13; 3:22). [Repeated 7 times in chapters 2 and 3]
>
> But then in the middle of the Tribulation it says…
>
> **"**If anyone has an **ear, let him hear."** (Rev. 13:9)

Notice that 13:9 breaks the refrain of "***to the churches***," and the reason for this break in pattern is because this context doesn't pertain to the churches, as the church is not in the Tribulation Period.

Christ testifying to these things serves as His personal affirmation of everything in the book. The phrase, "**these things,**" certainly refers to what has just been said in the immediate context, but beyond that, it has application to the **whole book** of Revelation.

These things, the entirety of the book, have been given to the churches. Certainly, that includes the 7 local churches addressed in chapters 2 and 3, but then, as noted there, the Spirit repeatedly makes application to all the churches. Thus, this book has application for all local churches.

I understand the book of Revelation from a **pre-tribulational, premillennial standpoint**, meaning that Jesus is coming for the church prior to the Tribulation and to the earth prior to His millennial reign. If you understand the book in this way, then you might ask, "*Why would God reveal so much about the Tribulation Period to the Church if it has nothing to do with the Church? If the Church will not be here for the Tribulation, why is the church informed about it at length?* Good questions!

Certainly MUCH in the first five chapters (1-5) and the last 3 chapters (19-22) has application to the church, but not chapters 6-18, where the Church is never even mentioned. The church is mentioned 19 times in chapters 1-3 but then never mentioned again until we get to Revelation 22:16.

Revelation 6-18 forms the bulk of the book and in detail develops wave after wave of judgments that have nothing to do with the church. **So why then is this message given to the church** if it doesn't directly apply to the church?

This message is given to the church for three key reasons.

First, this is how God works. He delivers His message to and through His people. The message of coming judgment doesn't always apply to the messenger – God simply entrusts His people with delivering the message.

Slide # 10

> **Amos 3:7 (NKJV)**
> **7** Surely the Lord **God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.**

Second, it serves as a warning to God's people that we too are to live ready in view of the coming of the Lord.

Slide #11

> **2 Peter 3:13–14 (NKJV)**
> **13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
> **14** Therefore, beloved, **looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;**

Third, this message is given to the church so that we might **WARN** the world of what is coming. This is our calling! We are the "***watchman"*** for this age! Just like Noah, we are warning the world of coming judgment as spelled out in Revelation!

The church is the pillar and support of the truth, holding it forth to the world in WARNING and INVITATION (cf. Phil. 2:15-16, 1 Tim. 3:15). That is **a primary job** of the church – to **WARN THE WORLD** in most definite terms, and Revelation is the capstone of that most sober of warnings that ***"JUDGMENT DAY IS COMING!"***

Slide # 12

> **Acts 17:30-31 (NKJV)**
> **30** Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,
> **31** because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Revelation is ONE LONG WARNING TRACT – Repent – get right – judgment is coming!

There are Christian people who say we shouldn't try to **alarm** people, but then what in the world is the book of Revelation given to the church for? I submit to you that the most loving thing we can do is WARN the world about what is coming and their need to get right with God. This is our calling!

Jeremiah 6:14 says that the false prophets said, "Peace, peace!" when there was no peace!

Revelation tells us that JUDGMENT is on the horizon! Time is short! The time to get right is NOW! Revelation, in essence, warns people to FLEE FROM THE WRATH TO COME! **That is the MAJOR point**!

Today the seeker-friendly crowd says you must **never talk about sin, and coming judgment, and most certainly not about hell**. Conventional wisdom says you allure them with **family-friendly themes** – **life enhancement** themes that tell them they are okay and they just need to **feel good** about themselves.

But God says everything is not alright – people are not alright - JUDGMENT DAY IS COMING, and people must REPENT. People are sinners facing imminent judgment that is soon to fall upon the whole world.

Therefore, I understand Jesus, in effect, to be saying to the churches – "***I have given you this message. It is your job to WARN the world!"*** Let me ask you: *If we don't warn them, who will?* This is our responsibility – to speak the truth in love. Love warns! Love seeks to win them!

Even in the immediate context, the issue is that it is the blessed who enter into the city of Paradise in contrast to those outside, which serves as a BLARING WARNING. In this chapter of Revelation 22, there are **3 such BLARING WARNINGS contrasting** the fate of the lost and that of the saved in the concluding words of Revelation 21-22 (see 21:6-8, 21:24-27, 22:14-15)

Also, we should note that a careful study of the messages to the 7 churches in Revelation 2-3 shows that **many in the professing church were not saved.** This message also serves as a warning to them.

Today there are multitudes of people in local churches who are professing Christians, but in fact they are not saved. **They are to be WARNED**. They are on the **cusp** of the Tribulation Period – prophetically speaking.

Should they miss the imminent Rapture, they will be ushered into the darkest time of judgment in the history of the world. These people should take the warning to heart.

<u>One more thing:</u> I believe that immediately following the Rapture, multitudes of people will come to saving faith (cf. Rev. 7), and one reason that will happen is that the church was **WARNING** and **sowing the seed of the gospel** in the church age that will come to harvest after the church is gone.

Think about it. When the Tribulation hits with full force. They will be indebted to the **witness** we leave behind – to the **messages we left in tracts, in literature, on the internet,** in our **underlined Bibles and study Bibles,** etc. They will study these things. They won't have much time to **publish or produce** these things or even do real **deep self-study**.

They will be indebted to the church, which will leave behind a wealth of resources already at their disposal. I purposely am leaving a HUGE trail on the internet. So it makes perfect sense that this MESSAGE OF REVELATION is deposited to the CHURCHES. Christ has given us this message, and it is now our job to get the message out. I think verse 17 further speaks to this issue, as on the heels of the prophecy of coming judgment, it provides the last pleading invitation in the Bible.

After authenticating that this message is given to the churches, Jesus then says: "*I am the Root and the Offspring of David*." (cf. Isa. 11:1, 10; Jer. 23:5; Rev. 5:5).

Root means source – He is the CREATOR of David. This speaks of the DEITY of Jesus Christ.

Offspring means that He is a descendant of David in terms of His HUMANITY.

This phrase speaks to the reality that Jesus is both God and Man in one person. As God, Jesus is the Root (Creator) of David; as his Offspring, He is the human descendant of David (cf. Isa. 11:1; Matt. 1:1; 22:41-46; Mk. 12:35-37; Rev. 5:5).

That the Messiah would be a descendant of David is a HUGE emphasis in the OT (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Isa. 9:7; 11:1; Jer. 23:5-6; 33:15; Ps. 132:11; Matt. 1:1; LK. 1:32-33; Acts 15:15-16; Heb. 1:5). This Messiah would be both a DELIVERER and a RULER (cf. Rom. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:8).

Thus, the phrase "Offspring of David" is overtly Messianic in nature. This phrase in Revelation 22:16 speaks to the fact that Jesus is **the Messiah** who fulfills all the prophecies regarding the Davidic Covenant in 2 Samuel 7:12-17. There, **God promised David an heir who would forever have the throne in an eternal kingdom**.

Slide # 13

> **Luke 1:31-33 (NKJV)** (Gabriel to Mary)
> 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.
> 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him **the throne of His father David**.
> 33 And He will **reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."**

Therefore, "***Root and the Offspring of David***" is a Messianic designation grounded in the historical/prophetical OT Scriptures, which are then seen as being fulfilled in the NT Scriptures.

Then Jesus says He is "**the Bright and Morning Star."**This is used as a metaphor for Christ and is essentially connected to His Second Coming (cf. Num. 24:17; Job 38:7; Isa. 14:12; 2 Pet. 1:19; Lk. 1:78; Rev. 2:28). This exact designation "***Bright and Morning Star***" is found only here.

The Bright and Morning Star refers to the bright star, which is actually the planet **Venus**. It is the third brightest object in the sky behind the Sun and the Moon. This bright "star" appears ABRUPTLY in the eastern sky just before dawn while it is still night. It heralds that a new day is coming soon.

While there are two aspects to Christ's Second Coming (namely the Rapture and the Return to the Earth), it is noteworthy that the Bright and Morning Star appears FIRST before the sunrise. In Malachi 4:1-2, Christ is called the "***Sun of Righteousness***" in relation to His Second Coming, which comes later. But here He is called "the Bright and Morning Star."

Christ as the “Morning Star” is especially tied to the Church. Here in Revelation 22:16, He is especially addressing the churches as so noted. In reference to the church, Peter speaks of Christ as the “***morning star***” in 2 Peter 1:19. In Revelation 2:28, it is the church that is specifically promised “the morning star.”

Slide # 14

> **Revelation 2:26–29 (NKJV)**
> **26** And he who **overcomes**, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—
> **27** ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’— as I also have received from My Father;
> **28** and I will **give him the morning star**.
> **29** “He who has an ear, let him hear what the **Spirit says to the churches.” ’**

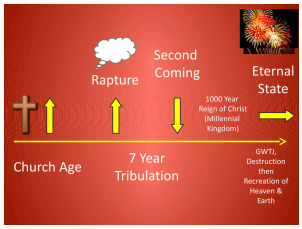
Jesus said to the church at Thyatira that to the overcomer He would give “***the morning star,***” which is Himself, meaning that the overcomer would share in the glory of His Second Coming (Rev. 2:28). And the Spirit then makes application to all “***the churches***.” This is a promise to the Church!

So note that Jesus as “***Bright and Morning Star***” is very closely connected to the Church in Revelation 22, while in Malachi 4:1-2 Christ is specifically designated the “***Sun of Righteousness***” in relation to His Return to the earth.

Therefore, the emphasis on ***“Bright and Morning Star***” may very well relate especially to the Rapture, while “***Sun of Righteousness***” relates especially to the Second Coming.

This Morning Star/Rapture emphasis is consistent with the 3-fold emphasis in the chapter of Revelation 22 on Christ coming soon in the sense that His coming is imminent (cf. Rev. 22:7, 12, 20).

Slide # 15



Note again that the morning star is the **BRIGHT STAR** that appears abruptly just before the break of day when it is still night! It suddenly appears in a context of darkness!

Slide # 16

The Bible does not teach that **revival** will come to the church as we get near the end, but rather, out of a context of apostasy, the church will be **snatched abruptly out of the darkness** of this age into His glorious presence (cf. 2 Tim. 3 & 4).

Titus 2:13 (NKJV)
13 looking for the blessed hope and ***glorious appearing*** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Historically, Jesus the Messiah is a descendant of David; prophetically, He is the BRIGHT hope of the church, in which the rapture will signal that a new day is on the cusp of arrival.

And it's in that context that we have the FINAL invitation in the Bible as found in verse 17.

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)
17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Here we have a fourfold invitation, the last INVITATION in the Bible. And it is intense. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 6:1, we plead or beg you to come. No one can make you do it. No one can do it for you! You yourself have to come to Christ! You have to respond with acceptance to the invitation.

Some think that the first two references to "Come" are addressed to Christ by the Church, as they desire Him to come. This is consistent with verse 20, which says, "***Even so, come, Lord Jesus***." And it is consistent with the hope of the appearance of the "***Bright and Morning Star***" in verse 16. So this view is certainly possible.

However, I think it is preferable to see the whole of verse 17 as an invitation to the lost to come to Christ and be saved. Only those who thus come will be ready to meet Christ when He comes, which is the great emphasis of the chapter. As noted, the imminent coming of Christ and the importance of being ready is mentioned 3 times in the chapter (v. 7, 12, 20).

As I have noted, the most immediate context contrasts the blessed who will enter into the paradise city (the New Jerusalem) with those outside. The most immediate context addresses those OUTSIDE, that is – the dogs (the morally unclean), the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and whoever loves and makes a lie, as seen in verse 15.

It is at this very point that Christ interjects Himself in verse 16, that these things are addressed to the churches, which is then immediately followed up with the intense invitation of verse 17. Thus, the whole context builds to this pleading invitation.

But a KEY reason that I tend to think the whole of verse 17 is an invitation to the lost is that it says the ***Spirit*** says ***"Come***" in conjunction with the ***bride!*** It seems to me that the most natural way to take the Spirit saying come in conjunction with the church is to see this as an invitation to the lost. This is the Spirit's ministry working through the church (cf. Gen. 6:3).

A key ministry of the Spirit is convicting the world – of wooing the world of inviting the world to come. But the way the Spirit does this is in connection with the body of Christ – the BRIDE of Christ – the Church.

Slide # 17

> ***John 16:7-8 (NKJV)***
> 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.
> 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
>
> **Acts 1:8 (NKJV)**
> 8 But you shall receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be **witnesses** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
>
> The Spirit and the bride say, Come. Jesus clarifies the primary mission of the Spirit and Church (His Bride) during this entire Church age, which is to invite lost men and women to come to Him for salvation before it is too late. – ***Tim LaHaye***

Come is the language of INVITATION. God doesn't FORCE people – He invites them.

In the parable of the great supper, as told by Jesus in Luke 14:15-24, a certain man invited many to come and dine. And one after another they made excuses why they could not come. The parable concludes this way:

Slide # 18

> **Luke 14:23–24 (NKJV)**
> **23** Then the master said to the servant, '**Go out into the highways and hedges,** and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
> **24** For I say to you that **none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "**

> **Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)**
> **20** Behold, **I stand at the door and knock**. If anyone hears My voice and **opens** the door, **I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.**

In Matthew 11:28 Jesus says, "**Come** to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you **rest**."

The Church is called the bride of Christ (see Eph. 5). The bride –that is, believers in the church are inviting people to come to Christ. We do this as we witness to people and share the gospel. This is the outward invitation.

At the same time and in conjunction with our witness, the Holy Spirit is doing the inward work in the hearts of people – saying "come" as He convicts them of their need to "respond".

Slide # 19

> **Hebrews 3:15 (NKJV)**
> **15** while it is said: "**Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" ***And let him who hears say, "Come!"***

Hearing signifies accepting the message. Those who don't accept never really LISTEN. They may even go through the motions but have never really heard. Revelation 13:9 it says, "*If anyone has an ear, let him hear."*

Slide # 20

> **John 10:27-28 (NKJV)**
> 27 My sheep **hear My voice**, and I know them, and they follow Me.
> 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Those who "Hear" are those who have listened and have come in faith to Christ. They are true believers, and they now in turn are exhorted to INVITE OTHERS to COME!

It is not enough just to HEAR – that is good – but now, having heard, they too are called to share the invitation to "COME"!

> ***A silent witness tends to be more silent than a witness!***

The Spirit is saying – COME!
The bride – the church of Christ- is saying – COME!
The converts are to say – COME!

The whole gospel mission from beginning to end is that of inviting people to COME!

Note the **gracious tone of this verse**. It is not beating people over the head with it. It is simply an INVITATION. They can either come or walk away. This is not forcing the issue but lovingly PLEADING with people.

Slide # 21

> **2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)**
> **20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we **implore** [beg, appeal] you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

And then the text says: ***And let him who thirsts come.***

All who are thirsty are invited to COME! The invitation is WIDE OPEN!

Slide # 22

- **John 4:13-14 (NKJV)**
  13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will

thirst again,
14 “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

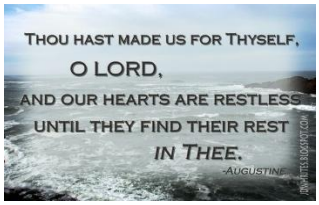
- “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again.” I tell people to write this Scripture over the top of their ambition, over every goal they set for their lives. No ambition is going to satisfy their thirst, because it is a spiritual thirst.” – ***Chuck Smith***

Slide # 23

John 6:35 (NKJV)
35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who **believes in Me shall never thirst.**

There really is a God-shaped vacuum in people, but many people don’t want to admit it. Their pride keeps them from Jesus!

Slide # 24



A great prayer is: “***God, make them thirsty.”*** It has well been said: “There is no hope for the satisfied person.” But the thirsty must COME! They must come to Jesus and find rest in Him.

Slide # 25

Isaiah 55:1 (NKJV)
1 “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, **Come** to the waters; And you who have no money, **Come**, buy and eat. Yes, **come**, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

Revelation 21:6 (NKJV)
6 And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. **I will give of the fountain of the water of**

<u>life freely to him who thirsts.</u>

Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Ya gotta wanna! This speaks to the issue of human responsibility. You have to desire it – you have to be thirsty. You have to TAKE of the water of life, and you do this by FAITH. To take is to receive!

> John 1:12 (NKJV) But as many as **<u>received Him</u>**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **<u>believe</u>** in His name:

Now of course, apart from God, no one on their own comes. The Bible is clear that on our own none seek after God (Rom. 3:11). But if God is drawing, if He is speaking, human responsibility to respond is involved.

Cain was responsible for not properly responding to the revelation of God in Genesis 4. Balaam admitted that he saw the truth of God with "eyes wide open." He says this twice, once in Numbers 24:4 and again in 24:16. Peter says false teachers deny the Lord who bought them (2 Pet. 2:1) and then says that, having known the truth of Jesus as Lord and Savior, they are more accountable than if they had never known it (2 Pet. 2:20-21). This is the point of Hebrews 6 and 10. These people were, on one level, enlightened; they had the knowledge of the truth, and yet they willfully rejected it. They refused to come; they refused to take!

People are accountable and responsible for the truth, for the light that is given to them! And the invitation is to "whoever." It is wide open: "Whoever desires, let him come and take the water of life freely! There is no charge! It is a free gift – but one has to come and take it!

<u>Slide # 26</u>

> "It also illustrates the biblical truth that salvation involves both God's sovereign choice (Jn. 6:44) and human volition. God saves sinners, but only those who recognize their need and repent."
>
> – ***John MacArthur*** - Revelation, p. 305

Water of life: speaks of eternal life – the life found in Christ that quenches – that fulfills spiritually.

John 7:37 (NKJV)

> **37** On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, **<u>let him come to Me and drink</u>**.

Whoever desires, let him take of the water of life FREELY! It's all of grace – you don't earn it or work for it. It is freely bestowed on all who admit their need – seek God for fulfillment – for satisfaction that is found only in Jesus Christ.

It is FREE – all of grace and yet you must COME – you must be THIRSTY – you must DESIRE – you must TAKE.

It is offered FREELY, but you must TAKE, and the way you take the water of life is by faith!

<u>Slide # 27</u>

> **Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)**
> **8** For **<u>by grace</u>** you have been saved **<u>through faith</u>**, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift of God**,
> **9** **<u>not of works</u>**, lest anyone should boast.
>
> In everyday modern slang, people commonly use the language of having a "***Come to Jesus Moment"*** to speak of having a reality check. What they mean is that the person comes to a major turning point that forces them to face the truth and make a major change. It expresses a mind-changing/life-changing experience. But they don't necessarily apply it to Jesus! For them, it just expresses a reality check.

But in Bible terms, coming to Jesus indicates a change of mind (called repentance) that comes to Jesus and, by faith, receives Him as Savior and risen Lord-God, resulting in a changed life!

This is called conversion! Biblically, "***Come to Jesus***" is a life-changing reality centered in Jesus! A true saving faith is a life-changing kind of faith. We are saved by faith alone, but it must be the right kind of faith – a life-changing kind of faith that is real in the heart and shows in the life.

We see this right here in Revelation 22.

We see it in Revelation 22:7, where Jesus says, "*Blessed is he who keeps the words of this book."*

We see it in verse 8, where the brethren are said to be those "*who keep the words of this book*."
We see it in verse 14, where the Blessed are those who do His commandments (or wash their robes) in contrast to those outside who practice wickedness (v. 15).

> Every old-time circus had a BARKER who promoted each attraction. He would call out, "HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!" And people would rush to some trivial sideshow.
>
> At times in my subconscious I seem to hear the voice of God calling, "HURRY, HURRY, HURRY; … The call is not to some passing earthly sideshow, but to the MAIN ISSUE OF TIME AND ETERNITY.
>
> – ***George Sweeting***

> **Revelation 22:10 (NKJV)**
> **10** And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

Indeed!

The Spirit is saying COME!
The Bride (the Church) is saying COME!
The Converts are to say COME!
And let the Thirsty COME – for NOW is the accepted time!
Whosoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

But you must COME!

Those who refuse to **COME** will one day hear Christ say, **DEPART** from Me – I never knew you.

COME TO JESUS!

COME!