

Revelation 22:10-12 - Open and Urgent

Intro - We are inching our way to the ending of Revelation because: 1]it warrants it, and 2] because I am unsure where we are going next. (Granny gear in slo-mo). But, the truths addressed in this final chapter are well worth our careful consideration.

Today's text stresses the importance of the message of Revelation (Bible/Gospel). The message of Revelation is not to be hidden because it is an open letter to the church and world. God has spoken and it is open and understandable. This open letter is also an urgent letter that is so serious it can lock you in for eternity. To hear it and not respond is to risk not getting another opportunity. There is no time to waste about your response to this message. Today is the day of salvation for tomorrow may be too late

Open and Urgent understandable but not trivial – at some point we are all locked in

OPEN MESSAGE

1. Rev. 22:10 the angel tells John not to seal up the content of what he received
 - a. When a book is sealed it is “top secret” and hidden (redacted parts)
 - b. Rev. 5:4-5 Jesus opens the seals and reveals
 - i. Revelation pulls the veil back so we can see: our God, ourselves and our future
2. It is a blessing that our Creator has been pleased to speak with us
 - a. Communication is an amazing thing. That God communicates with us is a “wow”
 - i. Communication is a cornerstone of relationship (God initiates the coversation)
 - ii. Special revelation =God has spoken to us with words (Heb. 1:1-2)
 - b. His word has at times has been rare and “hidden”. 1 Sam. 3:1
 - i. Famine of hearing the word of God - Amos 8:11
 - c. Daniel was to “seal up” what he saw about distant future - Dan. 8:26 Dan. 12:4,9
3. The message of Revelation is an open message and not to be hidden or “sealed up”
 - a. We are to proclaim the “The whole council of God” (Acts 20:27)
 - b. I was told by a church to skip certain parts because “the Bible reads just fine without it”
 - i. Sometime prone to pick and choose which parts are open & which parts to hide
 1. Revelation to too hard to understand - skip it
 2. Moral restrictions interfere with my freedom - skip it
 3. Miracles / Gods mandates to Israel/ judgment and hell - skip it
 4. Hard sayings and certain doctrines that make us uncomfortable – skip it
 - c. We are not to seal up or hide what God has communicated to us Deut. 29:29
 - d. Other religions have requirements to attain the level of super secret knowledge
 - i. Christianity is an open book for all to hear and read
 - ii. The message is unsealed so we should scatter it abroad

4. The message is understandable
 - a. You don't have to understand hieroglyphics to understand Revelation
 - b. Preachers shouldn't muddy the water - it is unsealed
 - c. Someone has said that is not the parts I don't understand that bother me it is the parts I do understand that bother me. Enough of Word is understandable to get out attention.

URGENT MESSAGE

- Rev. 22:11 this is an unusual and uncomfortable statement
 - o Seems to imply a callused and hopeless resignation to the way things are
 - As if no change is possible
 - o I think it is stressing the urgency of the unsealed message
- Gods message of Revelation/Gospel/Bible is open and URGENT
 - o Understandable but not trivial. It demands an urgent response
 - o Gods unsealed message graciously comes to us and it seals us for all eternity
 - It locks us in where we stand with message
- Ezekiel 3:27
 - o Whoever will listen, let them listen
 - o Whoever will refuse let them refuse
- Matthew 10:14-15
 - o If they don't listen then shake the dust off....more bearable for Sodom than for them
 - o Acts 14:46-52 Acts 28:25-29
- 2 Peter 2:21
 - o Better not to know than to know and then to reject the sacred command
- Gods open message gives us an opportunity for repentance and faith
 - o There is an offer to receive Christ's righteousness and to made holy
 - o If rejected then hardness sets in
 - Rev. 9:20-21 Rev. 16:9 Pharaoh
 - Esau - Heb. 12:16-17 -no place for repentance though sought with tears
 - God gives them over to their sin and the vile continues to be vile (Rom. 1:24ff)
- Hard living Harry Truman who refused to leave Mt. St. Helen
 - o Video/song
 - o His spirit does live on and on. Those who refuse continue to refuse
- 1 Cor. 7:29-31
 - o The message is unsealed
 - o The time is near
 - o Today is the day of salvation 2 Cor. 6:2
 - There is not guaranteed opportunity tomorrow
- 2 Cor. 2:15-16