Revelation 22:14-16a - The Blessed and The Cursed

Intro. - Saying of opposite endings about the same subject – "I've got some good news and bad news." Our text today covers both extremes of good news and bad news. The good news is that a multitude of sinners will gain access to heaven. The bad news is that an even greater multitude of sinners will be banned from heaven and condemned to hell.

Both the good news and bad news are true news and Jesus wants his messengers to clearly proclaim both lest we be guilty of spreading fake news. So, I've got good news and bad news today about sinners. Some are The Blessed and gain heaven and some are The Cursed and earn hell.

But the question is, "What is difference?" and, "what sinner are you?"

THE BLESSED - REV. 22:14

The book of Revelation has 7 beatitudes – "blessed are those..." These beatitudes give a profile of who "The Blessed" are. Some characteristics overlap and repeat but can see clearly who are the blessed

- 1. Rev. 1:3 those who read, hear and take to heart what is written
 - a. Faith comes by hearing Rom. 10:17 (not in one ear and out other but stays in heart)
 - b. Matthew 15:8
- 2. Rev. 22:7 those who keep the words of the prophecy written in Revelation
 - a. Hearers and doers James 1:22 Luke 6:46
- 3. Rev. 19:9 those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb
 - a. The Word gives an invitation to sinners to come to wedding of Son- (Matt. 22:1-14)
- 4. Rev. 16:15 those who stay awake and remain clothed
 - a. Those who are waiting for the bridegroom (Matt. 25:1-13)
 - b. Temporary faith is not saving faith
- 5. Rev. 14:13 those who die in the Lord (Heb. 11:21- Jacob died in faith)
 - a. Those who endure to the end will be saved- Matt. 10:22; 24:12-13 (queasy but not quit)
 - b. Blessed are the persecuted (Matt. 5:10-12; Luke 6:22-23)
 - i. Overcomers (Rev. 2-3 message to every church) Rev. 12:11
- 6. Rev. 20:6 those who share in first resurrection
 - a. 2nd death has no power over them. Christ gave them life
- 7. Rev. 22:14 "blessed are those who wash their robes...."
 - a. "The Blessed" are dirty people who have been made clean
 - b. Rev. 7:13-14
 - c. "Are you washed, in the blood?..." Isaiah 1:18
 - d. The good news is that rotten sinners can be washed and given the right to eat from the tree of life and may go through the gate into the city.

 Sinners can be saved!

THE CURSED - REV. 22:15

The bad news is that many sinners won't be saved and are barred from entrance into heaven. 22:15 is one list in the book that profiles The Cursed and gives us description of the damned. They are outside

- 1. Dogs this derogatory term refers to people (not animals) and is used in various ways
 - a. Unbelievers in general Matt. 7:6 Matt. 15:26 outside family of God
 - b. Religionist obsessed with externals Phil. 3:2-3 (ritual and legalism)
 - c. Homosexuals Deut. 23:18 (NIV notes "dog" in Hebrew but interprets the slur for us)
 - d. No "dogs" go to heaven. They are outside the family, external religionist and unnatural
- 2. Those who practice magic arts (21:7)
 - a. Not slide of hand "magicians" but spirit world magicians/witches/wizards/sorcerers
 - i. Renewed interest in these practices today (forbidden for Christians)
 - b. GR pharmakos pharmacy drugs mixing potions/drugs
 - i. Outside are the druggies and drug dealers mixing meth, cooking crack
- 3. Sexually immoral
 - a. God created the 2 sexes and sex. It is good and moral in the parameters of marriage
 - b. Gr. pornos pornography (Lust- Matthew 5:28)
 - c. Those who go outside of marriage pornography, incest, fornication, adultery, prostitution, homosexuality (lgbtqai), bestiality will be outside of heaven
- 4. Murderers
 - a. Matt. 5:21-22

1 John 3:15

- 5. Idolaters
 - a. All religions outside of Jesus Christ are false religions and are outside John 10:8; 14:6
- 6. Those who love and practice falsehood (liars Rev. 21:7)
 - a. Lies are the devils native language and his children speak it fluently John 8:44

This is a description of the cursed (Matt. 25:41)

they are outside and eternally reside in hell -21:7

THE BALANCE AND THE DIFFERENCE

- do you feel the weight of this description of the cursed? I do! Jesus wants it that a way- 22:16a
 - 0 we (I) must proclaim a balance message- good news and bad news
 - o all heaven and no hell is out of balance and fake news.
 - O Essence of the false prophet is "peace, peace when there is not peace"
 - Jer. 23:16-17, 22
 Malachi 2:17
- What is the difference between the The Blessed and The Cursed?
 - 0 1 Cor. 6:9-11
 - o The difference between THE BLESSES and THE CURSED is THE CROSS
 - O Blessed sinners have been washed from their sin "There is a fountain filled with blood"
 - O Cursed sinners cling to their sin, embrace their sin, are defined by their sin and defend their sin. They love their sin, are proud of their sin and wont depart from their sin
 - O Which sinner are you? I've got Good news and Bad news