

Come Quickly, Lord Jesus

Re 22:16 "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 20 ¶ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely, I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

The thoughts, that I have had from these words, have revealed to me how little my love for God is most of the time. It has shown me that I need to spend more time with the word of God, to increase my knowledge of Jesus, and thereby increase my desire to be with Him. It is like God is using this text to make me confess how weak my love for Jesus is most of the time.

This chapter of Revelation begins with Jesus telling us; he has sent his angel to testify of the glories of the eternal heaven. Jesus speaks of "**a pure river of water of life.**" Jesus speaks of "**the tree of life**" being there. All mankind lost access to the tree of life, when Adam disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, and was driven out of that wonderful place, seen in: **Ge 3:23-24; 23 "Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."**

Jesus speaks of a place where "**there shall be no more curse.**" Remember, God put a curse upon the earth, and man, when Adam fell in sin, seen in: **Ge 3:17-19; 17 ¶ "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."**

Jesus speaks of a place where we shall see "**the throne of God and of the Lamb.**" A place where God's people "**shall serve him,**" and we shall "**see his face.**" A place where there is no night, there is no sun, for God is the light thereof. A place, where those who willingly obey the commandments of God and Christ, will be able to enter through the gates of this city and eat of the tree of life.

Returning to our text verses, 16-21: we begin to understand that Jesus is telling us; our love for Christ, and our desire to spend eternity with him, must be greater than our love of things in this world. We were given a glimpse of what Jesus is telling us here, when Jesus told us in: **Mt 10:37-38; 37 "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."** Does this mean that we are not to love our family? Absolutely not. It means exactly what it says: we are to love God with a greater love than the love we have for our family. If you had to make a choice; between your love and desire to be with Jesus, and your love and desire to be with your family, which would you choose? The answer to this question really sums up the principle that is set forth.

The question then is posed: can we really say with understanding, and truly mean it as John did "**Even so, come, Lord Jesus?**" Are we willing to turn loose, of all the things we cherish, here upon the earth, to see our Lord Jesus coming in the clouds of glory? Are we willing to leave this world, through mortal death, to see Jesus face to face? Or are our earthly attachments so great, that we really don't want to die, or to see the return of Jesus Christ?

These thoughts put true perspective in what God meant when he gave Commandment 1 in: **Ex 20:3; 1 ¶ "And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me."** God was telling Israel; if your love, for anything in this world, is greater than your love for me, you have become an idolator. It says the same thing to God's people today.

It clearly demonstrates what Jesus meant in his answer to the lawyer of the Pharisees, seen in: **Mt 22:36-40; 36 "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."** Jesus told them the greatest commandment was to have their greatest love for God. Jesus did not stop there though; with the **"And"** beginning verse 39; he joined it to the second commandment to love your neighbor as yourself. I don't know anyone who loves someone else more than they love themselves. How do we know this? Have you ever looked at someone else and thought you were better than they were? Have you ever hurt someone else in any way? Do you ever get cross or aggravated at other people? For the married: you may love your spouse enough to give your life for her, and you should; but, as much as we love them, we sometimes hurt one another, with or without the intent to do so. Thus, we see how easy it is to fail to **"love thy neighbor as thyself."**

These questions put true perspective into how great our love for Jesus is supposed to be. Understand, if we are holding onto the world, or our natural families, with a greater love than we have to depart and be with Christ, or a greater love than to desire the return of Christ: we need to reassess our love for Christ Jesus, because it is lacking in its depth, breadth, and height. Sadly, I must confess that most of the time, my love for Christ is far from what it should be.

Does this mean that we are to just forget everything, here in the world, and just desire to see Jesus? The answer is no. We are to demonstrate, as long as we are alive upon the earth, the vastness of the love of Christ that is in us. Anyone, who is around us, should be able to tell by our actions, as well as our words, how great our love for Christ is? Do our friends, neighbors, coworkers, and others, see that we are excited at the prospect of seeing Jesus face to face? Does everyone know how excited we are to be going to the eternal heaven, the place Jesus has gone to prepare for his people. Does everyone know how excited we are about going to church and hearing the gospel of Jesus preached? Does everyone know how exciting it makes us feel to fellowship with the saints of God here in time? They should. If they don't, then we need to adjust the way we are living so, that they do see the Jesus in us.

As we think upon these last questions: we begin to understand what Jesus meant, when he said that we are to be salt, and light, to the world around us. Our exuberance for God, and Jesus, should so permeate our lives, that everywhere we go, we are exuding the fragrance of the grace of God for all to smell. We should be bearing the fruits of the Spirit that others may partake of Jesus through us. There should never be any doubt, from anyone, that we are a Child of God, in love with our Saviour, Jesus Christ. With our walks, and our tongues, we are speaking to all who see us. We are telling them how we have been affected by the love of God.

Everyone needs to know, that we believe Jesus had such great love for us, that he gave his life on the cross to save us eternally to the New Jerusalem. Everyone needs to know that when they die, they are going to one of two places. John expressed this in: **Re 21:7-8; 1 ¶ "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 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."** It is interesting to note; that in the middle of describing the glories of the eternal abode of God's people, there is a description of the place where the lost are going? Jesus does not want us to miss the truth that there is another place, that is the very opposite of the eternal heaven.

Everyone needs to know that the eternal lake of fire is a real place. It is the place where all will go that do not love God and Christ Jesus. Everyone needs to know of the eternal place that Jesus has gone to prepare, and of his loveliness, so that others would desire to go there.

We cannot truly demonstrate the glories of the eternal heaven, and the greatness of the love of Jesus Christ, if our love for things, here in time, have precedence in our lives. This has been demonstrated through time, and in the bible, by martyrs, who have given their lives for the cause of Christ.

I have experienced, a very few times in my life, when I could express "**come quickly, Lord Jesus**" without any fear of loss, or dread of any kind. It was a wonderful feeling to be able to turn loose of everything and expect to see Jesus in his glory. If our lives manifest that we are testifying, in spirit and truth, "**come quickly, Lord Jesus,**" then our lives will be evangelistic, and the work of Christ in us will not be in vain. Why? Because the love of worldly things, and our fleshly bonds in nature, will not hinder us from demonstrating the fulness, of the glory, of the expectations of the eternal heaven, and the greatness of our love for our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. May God help us all to fulfill the great commandment, "**Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,**" and the second commandment, "**Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself,**" while we live here. Then we will be able to witness, and say, with John "**Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**" Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!