

Introduction

- 1 As we come to the end of 2009, **what has changed** in our lives for the better or for the worse?
- 2 Have people we trusted let us down so badly this year that we are scared to trust others in 2010?
- 3 Live in a world where we don't have 100% trust or confidence in anyone-political, sport, family
- 4 In whom can we trust?-Bible says can fully trust Jesus, showed His love by dying in our place
- 5 Do you have a living relationship with Him & have you/I trusted Him to help with our choices?
- 6 How big a part has He played in your life over 2009, stronger rel'ship at end than at beginning?
- 7 How important to you/me is God as we make plans to face a new year and its new challenges?
- 8 Rev. teaches there are only 2 groups of people on earth – People of God + People of the devil
People **a** who belong to God thru' repentance/faith in Jesus Christ **b** Those who do not
- 9 Rev 22 talks about people living in **2 different time-lines** – **Those a Presently** living on earth, either heading for heaven **or** for hell/separation from God **b In heaven at end** for all eternity

I 22:1-7, 13, 16-17 Life of Christ (the Lamb)

A Life on earth before Lamb's Second Coming

- 1 In Gen 3 Adam/Eve rebelled against God, so everyone born since, has self-centred nature
- 2 Sin created a barrier/gap between God and everyone born since – **separates all** from God
- 3 In judging man then, God **a Stopped man from eating** of the **tree of** (eternal) **life**
b Cursed the ground, making it hard for man to grow food
- 4 Because **God loved us**, He sent Jesus to pay the punishment for our rebellion against Him
- 5 Lord Jesus was able to do that-He was 100% God and 100% man, died as perfect sacrifice
- 6 **Most here** today, have accepted Jesus thru' repentance/faith, had **sins washed clean** thru' **blood** of the **Lamb (22:14)** **but** if you have not, **22:17 invites you to receive** this **free** gift
- 7 One of the Lord's great promises in John 7:37-39 was **If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me & drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scriptures has said, streams of living water will flow from within him, by this He meant the Spirit** ”- **He helps Chns change**
- 8 But as Chns do not yet see God, they have to live by faith in a world with great challenges
- 9 Chns' **biggest problem** is that **they all have sinful natures**, which **compete against** the Holy Spirit **as He tries to change** them **within** to **become** more like Jesus, get rid of sins
- 10 “Sinful nature & the Spirit are in conflict with each other, so you do not do what you want

B 22:1-7 Life for those living in the Holy City of God after God's final Judgement

- 1 Angel shows John that God and the Lamb **will rule** in the **holy city, new Jerusalem**
- 2 **22:1** In a land where water is very precious and in short supply, John was shown in the eternal city the river of the water of life which flowed from the throne of God & the Lamb
- 3 This regular water supply will feed the **tree of life** which always bears fruit for residents
No supermarkets selling fruit & vegetables which had been picked several months earlier
- 4 The **life of God** on His throne **flowed** into the experience and lives of His followers
- 5 Certain things will be different for Christians in heaven when compared with life on earth
a 22:2,14 Tree of (eternal) Life now restored **b 22:3** Will be no more curses –judgement
c 22:3-4 Internal conflict between sinful nature and work of Holy Spirit will end as they see and serve God in heaven, with His name on their foreheads-no more anger, jealousy
d What does this mean? – Name of God is identified with the nature of God, which will become part of Chns' cleansed nature, washed clean by the blood of the Lamb (22:14)
So God's perfect nature **will replace** Chns' self-centred nature, now act/think like God
Will be no more disagreements, arguments as God will reveal his perfect plan to all
Sermon on Mount “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” Math 5:8
e 22:5 Chns won't need light of God's word to help them live His way, He'll teach them
f 22:2 Leaves of tree of life will **heal** nations – **end of** nations fighting (Israel/Palestine)

II 22:8-9 Worship God and His Christ

A 22:9b Worship God and the Christ (Lamb)

- 1 Many people ask what will we do when we are in heaven, how will we worship God?
- 2 Will it be one long church service which will go on every day? **No-** Life-style not liturgy
- Eg a Small boy, saw a board with a long list of names on the wall during church service
- b Asked his father what were those names for-“Names of men who died in the services”
- c Boy asked “Did they die in the morning or evening services?” – Worship is not church
- 3 After explaining to us the full gospel message in Romans 1-11, Paul starts with 12:1
“Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies** as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – **this is your spiritual act of worship**”
- 5 Paul is saying in response to all God has done for us, through His plan of saving us from His judgement, **Chns should worship God by all** they do every day- **not just** Sundays!
- 6 We Chns should not separate our secular life from our spiritual life, need to worship daily
- 7 At workplace, school, sporting activities, in home, social contacts –work as unto God-Col
- 8 **Worship = respond appropriately to God** –try to act, react, God’s way – **difficult to do**
- 9 In heaven all who live there **will be free from** sin, mistakes, arguing – complete harmony
- 10 **Take the Lord’s Prayer** – all the things Jesus told us to pray for, will be fulfilled
- a Hallowed be your name – God’s name will be praised
- b Your kingdom come – will have come c God’s will be done in heaven, daily bread ...
- d **God’s kingdom, power, glory will then be central to worship in the holy city** forever

B 2:8b-9a Who or what not to worship

- 1 Seems John had got carried away by all that he saw in his visions-made a serious mistake
- 2 He fell down, worshipped at feet of the angel, who had shown him these amazing things
- 3 Was serious because it removed God from His unique position as the Creator of all things
- 4 All other people, angels, idols, education, sport, homes, families - part of God’s creation
- 5 God **alone** is **worthy** of our worship & to worship anything else is to remove God’s glory
- 6 In heaven-no Marx, Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, as don’t worship Jesus as God here
- 7 Bible tells us to worship God in spirit and truth, this includes God Father, Son, Holy Spirit

III 22:10-21 Judgement of Christ, offer to receive Him

- 1 **Often hear** from many that God is love, **He will not judge anyone**, so all will go to heaven
- 2 Of the 1878 verses spoken by Lord Jesus, **13%, 1 in every 8 talk about God’s judgement**
- 3 God will choose a day when the Lord Jesus will return to judge everyone- no escape 6:15-17
- 4 22:11 This verse does confuse some, as it seems to say we can keep on sinning, but talks of Final Judgement Day, and some may have stopped following and worshipping God, so...
- 5 Again Rev talks about 2 groups of people Those who a Reject God, refuse to repent/believe
b Accept God, live for Him – **Offer still open (22:17)**
- 6 22:12-13 **Warns** each person He will **soon** come to **judge** each according to their response
- 7 No-one **can escape** from His judgement as He is the Beginning, End of all world events x 3
- a 22:14 Those who accepted God’s free gift of reconciliation – Have had their sins washed clean by the blood Jesus shed on the cross to remove their guilt and rebellion against God
- b 22:15 Outside will be those who have refused to believe the gospel, as they loved their sinful lifestyle instead – **Read 22:15 Are we guilty of any of these?eg practise falsehood**
- 8 However can find **we slip away gradually** from worshipping God **by being caught up** with many problems and God gets crowded out – **Stop** daily prayer, Bible reading, ...disobey
- 9 Have received the Lord at some point, so will be OK!!, **but are we worshipping Him daily?**
- 10 **22:16-17** Lord Jesus repeats that He has sent the angel to reveal these truths to the churches
- 11 He offers this free gift of place in heaven to anyone who is thirsty to receive Lord into lives
- 12 **22:20** Warned to be ready for Lord’s return-don’t know when it’ll happen or when we’ll die!

IV As 2009 ends, we all face a new beginning in 2010

1 **Let Lord Jesus be central** to **everything** we do in family life, at work, study, play, socially

2 Chns must worship God **on daily basis** and the most effective way to do that, is 4 things

a Pray to God, confessing the ways you have offended God, ask for His forgiveness

b Read the Bible **each day**- Take Bible reading plan, you can read whole Bible in 2010

J Wesley's mother "This book will keep you from sin **or** sin will keep you from this book"

c Ask Holy Spirit to change you within to become more like Jesus, obey Bible, live for God

d Attend church e Share our beliefs with others, give out copies of Essential Jesus-garages..

3 1968 Billy Graham interviewed in Sydney "What would you do if Jesus walked into room?-

"Fall down and worship Him" Interviewer completely lost for words-In 2010 **Worship God**