

“THE SURE WORD OF GOD”

REVELATION 22:6-10; 18-19

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

How sure is God’s word?

How sure is the Book of Revelation?

If it is sure, sound, and important, how much do we reverence it and study it, and promote it?

YOU MUST BE READY FOR HIS COMING AND TREAT REVERENTLY THE SURE WORD OF GOD.

- I. THE SOURCE OF THE WORDS (6b)
 - A. Ultimate Source: “Lord God of the spirits of the prophets” (cf. I Cor. 14:14, 32—“spirits of prophets are subject to them)
 - B. Mediate Source: His angel

- II. THE CHARACTER OF THE WORDS (6a)
 - A. True—dependable, genuine, real
 - B. Faithful—trustworthy, dependable
 - A good exhortation to spend time with this Book!
 - Cf. vv. 18, 19: The plagues are real, with powerful effect upon people who mistreat the book.
 - The blessings are real—and can be forfeited.

- III. THE RECEPTOR OF THE WORDS (8)
 - A. His Identity—John (8a)
 - B. His Position—“bondservant” (6c)
 - C. His Observation—“heard and saw”
 - D. His response—“fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed him these things” (cf. 19:10)
 - E. His rebuke—“Do not do that; I am a fellow servant
 - Angels refuse worship.
 - Demons and the devil accept it!
 1. Serving you and all such prophets who are your brothers
 2. Serving believers—here described as “those who heed [or keep] the words of this book.”
 - F. His Responsibility: “Worship God.”

- IV. THE RESPONSE TO THE WORDS (9, 10, 18, 19)
 - A. Make them Available (10)—“do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book”
 - Note the opposite instructions in 10:4.
 - Cf. Dan. 8:26; 12:4, 9—“preserve and keep secure.”
 - “Prophecy of this book”—also in v. 18.

- Cf. “Book of this prophecy” in v. 19.
- B. “Keep them”—obey the moral requirements (7, 9c)
- C. Do not Add to them, or God will “add to him the plagues which are written in this book” (18)
- D. Do not Subtract from them, or God “shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city which are written in this book.” (19)
 1. We must not assume the salvation of such a person, any more than Simon in Acts 8:21.
 2. Such activity shows a rebellious will that is out of harmony with the will of God.
 3. A rebellious will cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God here or in the hereafter.
 4. **The warning is to professing Christians; by their attitude to this Book they show themselves to be unworthy of their inheritance.**
 - Cf. the warnings in Dt. 4:2; 12:32; and Prov. 30:5, 6)
 - This is a claim for **canonicity**.
 - No honest teacher, preacher, copyist, translator or interpreter can incur the penalty.
 - However, there is no room for light or careless handling of the text!
 - John deals with deliberate falsifications or misinterpretations—see Gal. 1:6-7/

[Quote Seiss, p. 527—the proper approach to this book]

V. THE URGENCY OF THE WORDS

- A. “The Time is Near” (10b)
- B. “They must shortly take place” (6d)
 - Cf. I Cor. 7:29-31; I Thes. 4:15—“The form of this world is passing away”; “we who are alive and remain.”
- C. Christ is Coming Quickly (7a; 12; 20)
 - “Without delay”
 - “In a short time”

CONCLUSION

We must respond to God’s Word the way John did:

- 1) Make them available.
- 2) Keep them.
- 3) Do not add to them.
- 4) Do not subtract from them.

The words are true and reliable; they are from almighty God Himself; His coming and our accountability to Him is approaching soon and surely. **We must be ready!**

YOU MUST BE READY FOR HIS COMING AND TREAT REVERENTLY THE SURE WORD OF GOD!