

ENCOURAGEMENT AS WE WAIT FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

Revelation 22

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Do you find it easy or hard to wait for Christ's return? Why?
- What are you most looking forward to when Christ returns?

Waiting can be a discouraging activity. As believers, we wait for justice, peace, and for God's kingdom to come. Sometimes, that waiting can feel fruitless and unending. At times, it can be tempting to even give up or give in to the pressures of this world. John knew what this kind of waiting felt like, he knew what it felt like to watch evil, grief, injustice, and pain at work in the world. But he closes Revelation with a vision to encourage the faithful. His vision of heaven reminds us that God is still in control and that Christ has already won the final victory. Our job is to simply remain faithful and continue doing the work to which God called us.

Listen: [*Encouragement as We Wait for Christ's Return*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee discuss the parallels between [Revelation 22:1-7](#) and [Genesis 2:8-14](#). Why are these connections meaningful? What does it teach or affirm about God's character?
- As host Scott Hoezee reflects on [Revelation 22:12-15](#), he says "What should you be doing when Jesus comes back? Your duty...Being faithful to your call when Jesus returns." What does it mean for you to be faithful to your call? How should you be filling your time now on earth?
- Read [Revelation 22](#) again. This closing chapter of the Bible once again emphasizes God's engagement with his creation, affirms that God is in control, and provides believers with hope. In what ways does this knowledge encourage you? How does this knowledge help you remain faithful when you face situations or circumstances that seem hopeless? How might this knowledge affect the way you act or the things you prioritize this week? What does it help you to do?

Related Passages

- **Genesis 2:8-14**
- **Romans 8:18-25**
- **Psalms 37**
- **Matthew 24**
- **Hebrews 1:1-3**

- **Matthew 16:24-27**
- **Hebrews 10:19-39**

Conclusion

In segment 3, Scott and Darrell review the ways the book of Revelation encourages and strengthens our faith and they reflect on how this stands in stark contrast to the way Revelation is often used to frighten or intimidate believers. Here is a brief summary of the four highlights they discuss:

- The way the world is now is not how it will ultimately be; there will be a new heaven and a new earth.
- God calls us to persevere in our faith and not give up on doing good, but to continue to be faithful.
- Christ has already won the victory. We're waiting for the fullness of his shalom.
- Heavenly worship will be diverse and beautiful, and it is our natural response to eternal life in God's presence.

As you reflect on their review of Revelation, what points were particularly encouraging to you in your faith right now? Why? How do John's visions help you wait faithfully for the fullness of God's kingdom?

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