

## The Best Thanksgiving Ever! (Revelation 22:13-21)

*(13) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (14) Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (15) Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (16) "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." (17) The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (18) I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, (19) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. (20) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (21) The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.*

*(13) ...we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. (1Thess. 2:13)*

*(97) Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. (Ps. 119:97)*

*(21) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (22) If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. (23) I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (24) But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. (25) Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, (26) so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. (Phil. 1:21-26)*

*(6) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. (2Tim. 4:6-8)*

1. Based on Revelation 22:13-21 we can be thankful for: The character of Christ, the blessing of God, the forgiveness of God, the City of God, the Word of God, the 2nd coming of Christ, and the grace of God that makes all this possible.
2. The Apostle John refers often to who Jesus is as the great "I AM," just as he does here. In the gospel of John that he wrote, he tells us that Jesus is also ("I AM..."), *the bread of life (Jn. 6:48), the light of the world (8:12), the door (10:7), the good shepherd (10:11), the resurrection and the life (11:25), the way, and truth, and the life (14:6), and the true vine (15:1)*. These are all claims to deity, all claims to being God. In Revelation you clearly see Jesus' divinity being presented. Jesus is God. Do you recognize Jesus as God the Son (vs. 13)?
3. Let's thank God for who He is, for His perfect character and His perfect ways. He is infinite, has no beginning, no end, is eternal, is above time and over time. When we meditate on God's greatness as expressed in His infinite nature it helps us keep things in right perspective in our lives, in our relationships, and in all we do here on earth. Do you ever meditate on the attributes of God, the infinite nature of God, the timelessness of God (vs. 13)?
4. The Bible begins with Jesus as the Word who created all things (Jn. 1:1-3, Gen. 1:1-3). The Bible ends with Jesus as the final Word and revelation from God. Jesus, our Creator, is also our Redeemer and Restorer, the One who is making all things new. The One who will make all things new in us and in the world (vs. 13).
5. God blesses His people, and God wants His people to experience the fullness of His blessing. God's people have been spiritually washed clean by the blood of Christ. All your sins have been washed away as a Christian. Christians are also people who want to grow in greater spiritual purity/cleanness as they grow in holiness of life as God's children. We have access to the tree of life as a result of the work of Christ on our behalf. We have eternal life, are immortal, and will benefit from the fruit of the tree and it's healing leaves forever. We will have perfect health and abundant wealth. In fact, we will have no lack. We have access to the eternal City of God (the New Jerusalem). We will go through the pearly gates where we will be with God, in His presence, experiencing His goodness forever and ever. Have your sins been forgiven? If so, are you now seeking to grow in holiness (vs. 14)?
6. Jesus is the only way into the City of God. Some will be in and others will be out. Those outside are characterized as dogs (filthy, wild, dirty, animal like, etc.). They love drugs and magic (sorcery), sexual immorality (sex outside of marriage, adultery, homosexuality, etc.), murder and death, worship of the creation instead of the Creator, and lies/deceit/falsehood. What characterizes your life? What do you love? Are you growing in Christ-likeness or dog-likeness (vs. 15)?
7. God the Father sent God the Son, who sent an angel to speak to the Apostle John, to then pass on to the church what He wants us to know about God, ourselves, and the future. We as Christians are to now pass on (testify to) the things we have learned in this book to others. Are you telling others about what God has been teaching you in Revelation (vs. 16)?
8. Jesus is the root of David, He is the One who David was created by, the One who David comes from. Jesus is also the descendant of David by blood through his line, his very offspring generations down the line. Jesus is the Creator of all and the King of all kings, even greater than David, or any earthly ruler alive today or who has lived throughout human history. We love studying great people of the present and the past. But there is none greater than Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He is the star of all stars, the bright morning star. We have all had "stars" we have looked up to growing up or even today. Who we see as "stars" says a lot about who we are. There should be no one or nothing that comes before Jesus Christ for us. Whoever or whatever is first in our lives is who we worship. Is God the Son first in your heart? Do you love Him more than all, think about Him more than all, read His Words more than others words (vs. 16)?
9. God the Holy Spirit loves God the Son and God the Father. The Holy Spirit desires for Jesus to come back again and make all things new. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, Healer, Restorer, Renewer, Cleanser, Empowerer, and Friend of God's people. God's people, the church, are filled with the Holy Spirit, and therefore want Jesus to come back as well (2nd Coming). Those who hear Revelation or who read it should long for Christ's return when they finish it. A deep longing for the 2nd Coming of Christ is a sign of spiritual health. Don't you want

Christ to return even more now that you have learned these things about God, yourself, and the future? Don't you want God to destroy all evil and all rebels? Don't you want to be with God and experience the fullness of His presence? Don't you want to be rid of sin in your own life and in the world? Don't you look forward to the day when there is no more pain, suffering, tears, broken relationships, terrorist threats, war, natural disasters, death, and evil? Don't you long for the City of God, the gifts of God, and above all God Himself (vs. 17)?

10. Are you thirsty for God? Do you see how thirsty other people are? Do you want them to be full, to be satisfied, to have their thirst quenched by the only One who can satisfy their souls? Do you desire God? Do you want others to know God. God's salvation and His Fatherhood are free to any who want Him, who really want Him. Do you really want God? Do you really want God forever (vs. 17)?
11. When God warns us we need to listen carefully. When we hear the prophetic Words of Revelation, the prophetic Words of the Bible, we should receive them. We should never add to the Bible. There is no further inscripturated and authoritative revelation from God after this book. We should not take anything away from God's Word either, even the parts that we may think are hard or most challenging to our own ways of thinking. Beware of theological liberalism, Islam, the cults (Jehovah Witnesses, the Mormons, etc.), the New Age Movement, and any other crazy self made "prophet" who says or teaches things contrary to the Bible. Those who receive God's Word give evidence of having God's Spirit within them, and give evidence of their eternal life. Those who reject God's Word give evidence of their lostness and they will receive the punishment described in Revelation, and they will endure eternal death and suffering in the lake of fire with the devil and demons (18-19).
12. Revelation is the testimony of Jesus. He says He is coming again. Do you believe it? Will you receive it? Does your heart say, "Come Lord Jesus! (vs. 20)"
13. God pours out His grace on His people. He wants us to experience the fullness of His amazing grace. The book of Revelation is a gift to us from God by His grace. It is only by grace that we receive this book. Will you receive this book, see Christ for who He is, and love Him as you should? It is only grace that enables us and leads us into greater obedience and holiness. It is only by grace that we get eternal life. The eternal City of God is a City of Grace. Our God is so gracious! Have you experienced His grace? If not, call out to Him for His grace in Jesus Christ today. Do you live by God's grace? Are you gracious like God is (vs. 21)?