



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - October 14, 2012

Sermon

Heaven is for Real:

"Wrapping It Up--Heavenly Signs Are All Around Us!"

Revelation 22:1-6, 12-17

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember about this sermon...

Monday 10/15/12

Revelation 22:1-2a

The vision of heaven in Revelation 22 begins with the vision of a river; actually referred to as the water of life. What do you think of when you hear the phrase "river of life." In this description, the river is bright as crystal and proceeds out of the throne of God. What do these visionary images conjure up in your mind?

Tuesday 10/16/12

Revelation 22:2b-4

Notice that this reading starts with the second part of the second verse with the capitalized "And." This whole passage reflects the difficulty of how the verse numbers were placed in the scriptures. Originally, the verse numbers were not included in the original text. So while these verse numbers help us to locate an exact verse, we can also recognize how difficult it must have been to put the verse numbers into places that make sense. However, it is the content of the words and their interpretation that matters. The numbers are helpful, but the words are most important! What do the words in these three verses mean to you?

Wednesday 10/17/12

Revelation 22:5-6

Apparently, according to these verses of John's vision, there is no need for a light, a lamp, or a sun in heaven. In his gospel, John said, "God is light." So God will be the only source of light we need in heaven. Interestingly, when many people died and came back to life, they often describe seeing a light or being drawn toward the light. Tonight, when you turn on a light, think about God being the only light you need. What does this mean for you?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Do you believe heaven is for real?

Make a list of all the people you hope to see in heaven. Put this list in your Bible, maybe in chapter 22 of the book of Revelation.

Do you know how one gets to heaven? What did Jesus say about this? Write down what you know about how to get to heaven and put this in your Bible after you share it with someone else.

Thursday 10/18/12
Revelation 22:12

“Behold, I come quickly...” Death sometimes comes like a thief in the night. Sometimes we don’t have time to say goodbye to a loved one before they die. The promise and hope we have in God is that we will have an opportunity to say “hello” to them again one day! This verse also instructs that each one of us will receive our reward in heaven according to our work. Are you working toward your reward in heaven?

Friday 10/19/12
Revelation 22:13

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, which are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet. Jesus is the first and the last. What does this mean to you in your life? Can you honestly say that Jesus is the first person you think about when you start your day and the last person you think about when you retire at the end of the day? How important is Jesus to you? Are you willing to make him above all other things in your life--your first and last?

Saturday 10/20/12
Revelation 22:14-17

There are a lot of thoughts and questions about heaven. Some thoughts and questions probably are more important than others. Of course, we need to acknowledge that our human thoughts about heaven are limited by our earthly thoughts and experiences. After all, we do not know anywhere near the mind of God. God is all-knowing. In comparison, we know little. However, there are certain truths we are told about in scripture. One of these truths is that heaven is for real. Do you believe this basic truth of our faith? What evidence do you have to back up your belief?