



# river west church

## Keeping the Words of this Book

Revelation 22

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### **Final Cry of the Book of Revelation**

“Come quickly Lord Jesus!” It’s the final cry of the Book of Revelation. Have you been paying attention to the incredible message of Revelation? If so, your heart will say amen to those words. Here, at the end of the book, God gets us to look up from our lives. That’s been the goal all along. The message of Revelation is so huge, so pressing, so amazing. God wants us to take it all in and look up from our lives. Put down the iphone. Forget the twitter link. Stop managing your Facebook profile. Look up from your job, your relationship issues and your vacation plans. Look past your struggles and hurts. Look up from these things and see Jesus. See Him in all His glory, power and love. See the throne of God. See the Lamb of God. When you do, your heart will begin to yearn for more of Him. Soon your heart is joining in with the final cry of Revelation: “Come quickly Lord Jesus!”

### **Do You Get It?**

Revelation is a tough book to understand. There are so many different views about what it all means. In our study we have been guided by a simple principle: the Book of Revelation points to the future, but it speaks to us for our lives in the present – right here, right now. With that principle in mind, we focused on 10 specific purposes of Revelation. Let’s take another look at the list. As you look at the list, you can use it as a way to think of your own experience with the Book. Did you see these things in the pages of Revelation? Do you get it?

1. To reveal the awesome glory of Jesus Christ our Lord
2. To show us Christ’s heart for His church and His purpose for His church
3. To challenge us to actually be the light of Christ for our world
4. To show us the true reality of God – He is the almighty, eternal, sovereign creator of all things (the throne of God) and He is the gracious, victorious redeemer in Christ (the Lamb of God)
5. To call us to a life response of genuine worship
6. To reveal the reality of evil in our world for what it actually is
7. To show us the fearful reality of God’s judgment on our sinful world
8. To give us what we need to stand strong in Christ – no matter what
9. To show us how to live as faithful witnesses for Christ and the Gospel – even in the face of personal difficulty or great opposition
10. To put before us a vision of the ultimate victory of Christ over all things and our eternal hope through the Gospel

### **Keeping the Words of this Book**

Revelation 1 promises a blessing to those who hear and keep what is written in this book (1:3).

Revelation 22 reminds us that we are to keep the words written in this book (22:9). So Revelation begins and ends with a call to keep these words. To “keep” means to watch over, guard, or observe. But how do you do that? Surely, it is a matter of heart as well as action. To keep these words you must open your

heart to the revelation of Jesus in this book. Keep the vision of Jesus front and center in your heart and mind. Pray and ask God to show you the beauty, authority, victory, and love of Jesus. But there is something else. To keep these words, we must be willing to endure difficulty for our faith. We must refuse to let the things of this world take center stage in our lives. We must see the big picture of God's grand plan and live our lives each day in the light of eternity. May the Lord help us to live in this kind of faith, hope and love. That's the kind of faith that changes the world for Jesus. Right here, right now!