

11057-A July 10, 2011
Revelation #43
How to Inherit Eternal Life
Revelation Chapter 22:10-15

I. **Matt.19:16-22.** A wealthy theistic moralist who has not done anything he considers wrong, comes to Jesus ...

A. He wants to add eternal life to his portfolio. (Or be congratulated)

1. The point here is self-salvation, self determination.

B. Jesus says "You must make me your portfolio."

1. Valuing Christ personally over his portfolio is the only way. "Let go of your portfolio and follow me."

C. *We cannot survive by using God to get what we want, even if what we want looks like the highest good—eternal life (ministry, career, family, etc)*

II. **Rev. 22:10-15. Three things to know about inheriting eternal life.**

A. **Take responsibility. 10-11**

1. The truth is available and determines the future.

a) Do not seal up the words of the prophecy.

b) Truth happens. "Reality is what you discover when you find out you were wrong." (Willard)

2. You will go the direction you are pointed. 11

a) A person's trajectory carries them into eternity.

B. **Understand Reality. 12-13**

1. Morality is built into the material/spiritual universe.

a) *Morality is not just a human mental construct; it is an eternal aspect of the universe from God's mind.*

b) *The universe is morally structured for justice and love.*

Which is why the cross of Christ is the only place to be reconciled to God and the creation. Rom.3:21-4:8

c) Fairness:

(1) Recompense/reward. *misthos* = wages, what is earned by work.

(2) Repay/render (*apodidami*) = give what is deserved.

d) Reward:

(1) For the faithful, a reward.

e) Retribution: For the evil, vengeance.

(1) Rom. 6:23 The wages of sin is death.

2. Because the Lord is the ultimate reality. (Relational, just and loving)

a) Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End, First and Last.

(1) This is a metaphysical statement, not just a religious sentiment.

b) Alpha is where you start.

(1) *Do you start with yourself or with the Lord in your understanding of reality?*

(2) *We must start with Him rather than ourselves or we will never grasp either him or ourselves.*

- c) Omega where you are going.
 - (1) *Is the Lord the ultimate purpose, or is he a means to getting some other ultimate purpose?*
 - (2) The universe is on its way to Him. (Col.1)
- d) *He is the ultimate reality that defines and contextualizes everything.*
- e) *This is the only way the universe will ever work, and it is the only way your personal life will work today.*

C. Give up on religion and come to Christ. 14-15

- 1. He makes a distinction between people.
 - a) *But it is not between bad people and good people, but between unrepentant people and forgiven people.*
 - b) Blessed are those who wash their robes (in the blood of the Lamb 7:14).
 - c) *Not, Blessed are those who avoid sin and obey the Law.*
- 2. There are two types of unrepentant people.
 - a) Rebellious ones who hate *God* and avoid him by diving into sin.
 - b) Religious ones who hate *repentance* and avoid it by avoiding sin. (The rich young ruler, the older bro)
 - c) But avoiding repentance is the same as trusting the Self over God's grace. It is moralistic self-salvation.
 - (1) The worst thing you can do is lead a "pretty good life" because it will blind you to the deep evil within and you will think you don't have to repent and trust Christ as the saving Lord.
- 3. There is only one type of forgiven person
 - a) *Those who repent (turn away from) of both their evil and their good.*
 - b) *Those who make the Lord himself their portfolio.*
 - c) **Psalm 16.** *I have no good but you ...you are my lot. The Lord himself is the goal of life.*
 - d) These people rely on grace all their lives, which produces humility, gentleness, forgiveness, strength, wisdom and all the good works and fruit of the spirit. (Eph.2:8-10)