**Sermon Notes - July 2, 2023**

**Series**: Revelation

**Sermon**: The River of Life

**Scripture**: Revelation 22, Acts 5:32, Psalm 25:1, Galatians 5:22-23, Isaiah 65:17, 2 Peter 3:12, 14

**Summary**: John completes Revelation, and the final words of the New Testament, by including another reassurance from Christ that these are His words, and His testimony. John appeals to readers to accept the offer Christ makes for salvation.

**Read**: Revelation 22

As we start winding down our journey through Revelation, we begin preparing ourselves for the grand conclusion… eternity. We’re introduced to a “new heaven” and a “new earth.” Next, we’ll see the “New Jerusalem”. Finally, all the struggles of earth are over, and the glory of God is with redeemed mankind. This is a brand-new universe. It is “paradise restored!”.

1. **Eternity**
   1. A Crystal-clear river of water flows from the throne right down the middle of the street.
   2. The water is “Living Water” – Holy Spirit
   3. We can drink from the endless supply now.
   4. The Holy Spirit is available to the obedient.
      1. Acts 5:32
   5. Consecrate yourself to the Lord.
      1. Set apart for God’s use by completely and voluntarily surrendering to Jesus.
      2. Psalm 25:1-2
2. **The Tree of Life**
   1. On either side of the River of Life stood the Tree of Life.
   2. Twelve crops of “fruit”, every month.
   3. If the River of Life represents the Holy Spirit, does the fruit represent the “Fruit of the Spirit”?
      1. Galatians 5:22-23
      2. What could the other three “fruit” represent?
      3. Possibly something we can only experience in heaven.
   4. Will we see Jesus in everyone, and will they see Jesus in us?
      1. His name written on our foreheads leads me to believe that He will constantly be on our minds.
      2. We will be of one heart and mind.
3. **Rule and Reign**
   1. Revelation 22:3-5
      1. Who do the people in the Holy City reign over?
   2. Conjecture – scripture doesn’t reveal all the answers.
      1. Cannot be those who were cast into Hell.
         1. Scripture says that they will not even come to mind anymore.
            1. Isaiah 65:17
      2. Must be those who missed the rapture and/or were born during the Millennium.
         1. The faithful with natural, earthly bodies
      3. Those saved in the Millennial Kingdom would not be included in the Bride of Christ, as the marriage ceremony is over.

**Application / Next Steps**

Does that mean our faith weakened when we cannot explain how God did something?

If our faith is based on our human ability to provide every answer, we will fail. But if our defense is based on our trust in Christ and the authority of His Word, we will be prepared to help people in every situation. Our confidence lies in the truth God has revealed to us through the gospel and the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is coming soon!

Are you prepared?

**2 Peter 3:14 (ESV),**

**14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.**

We need to make the most of every moment we have… to be Christlike.

Let us continue striving to be holy. Let us strive for perfection of heart and life. You will never regret making every effort to be holy… but you will regret laziness, apathy, selfishness, and sin.

Have you consecrated your heart and life to Jesus?

Have you given your all to Him?

I invite you to do so right now.