

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #110

1/28/09

**“The Lord's Final Words: Part 7”**

**Revelation 22:14**

**Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**

**Revelation 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.**

One of the first things we must do as we come to verse fourteen is to comment on the variance in the readings found in different translations. The King James Version, often called the Authorized Version, is based upon the Byzantine Majority Text manuscript. Many of the later translations are based upon different manuscripts. In the later translations the Bible reader will notice that 22:14 reads *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city”* (NASB). Most of the newer translations use the same manuscripts as is used by the Lockman Foundation in the New American Standard Bible. Such who make this choice often note that this phrase is a repeat of what is said in Revelation 7:14: *“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”* While this wording is certainly acceptable and totally consistent with not only 7:14, but also with the message of redemption found in the Bible, such an explanation is not a sufficient reason to reject the wording found in the KJV which is also completely consistent with the message of redemption found throughout the Bible. In this lesson we will proceed with a study of the reading found in the KJV.

In verses fourteen and fifteen Jesus sets forth a startling and clear contrast between those who will be allowed into His eternal heaven to fellowship with Him forever and those who will not. That which divides men into the two groups is a result of the choices which the individuals have made while living in this life.

God put *“the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”* in the Garden of Eden, thereby giving Adam the freedom to choose whom he would serve, God or Satan. Since then, the Lord has allowed man to choose whom he would serve; whose nature he would reproduce and whose destiny he would choose.

It is a powerful freedom which carries with it an awesome responsibility. With every freedom of choice goes the accrued results. These two verses clearly delineate the results produced by that freedom of choice. It is a responsibility which no man can avoid but must accept as his own. The Lord here pronounces the consequences of that process.

While a public, verbal profession of submission to the Lord God is important (Matthew 10:32-33; Exodus 24:1-11) God knows that the heart

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of man is sinful and deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9-10); that man sometimes verbally professes to believe in Him, submit to Him, and be His people when the opposite is true (Matthew 7:21-23). Far too often there is a contradiction between what a person verbally professes and what a person does. Therefore, God has so structured life that man makes choices which: 1) produce actions, 2) result in habits, 3) characterize life-styles and values, 4) produce a nature and character, and 5) then results in a destiny. Each of these verses before us tells of the different destiny for these two groups of people; a destiny which they have chosen as shaped by their own personal choices and for which they alone are responsible.

In verse fourteen, for the last time, the Lord emphasizes the blessings that result for those who choose to obey Him and **“do”** what He says pleases Him. It is consistent with what is found throughout the Word of God. Note:

Now therefore, **if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:** for all the earth is mine (Exodus 19:5).

And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and **they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient** (Exodus 24:7).

Now ***these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them*** in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, **to keep all his statutes and his commandments,** which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and ***that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey*** (Deuteronomy 6:1-3).

And **a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God,** but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known (Deuteronomy 11:28).

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, **to observe and to do all his commandments** which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: ***And all these blessings shall come on thee,*** and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. **If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book,** that thou mayest fear this glorious and

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fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; Then the Lord will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee (Deuteronomy 28:1-2,12,58-60).

**See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live: **That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him**: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. (Deuteronomy 30:15,19,20).

Our Lord made it extremely clear that, if a person had indeed chosen to trust Him as Lord and Master, thereby allowing Him to enter that person's life and conform it unto His will, then that person would repeatedly choose to obey Him. His obedience would be proof of his love for the Lord, evidence that his nature had been changed by the indwelling Holy Spirit of the Lord in his life. Consider the following statements of our Lord:

**“If ye love me, keep my commandments”** (John 14:15).

**“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me**: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” (John 14:21).

“Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words**: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. **He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings**: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me” (John 14:23-24).

In addition, we find the following in the little letter of First John:

**“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments”** (1 John 2:3).

**“And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him ...”** (1 John 3:24).

**“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments ...”** (1 John 5:3).

Then James, the half-brother of our Lord, addressed the issue of the frequent contradiction between the verbal professions and the actions of people when he wrote:

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**“... be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.** For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass” (James 1:22-23).

“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? Even so **faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and **I will show thee my faith by my works.** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, **O vain man, that faith without works is dead?**” (James 2:14,17-20).

What our Lord says in Revelation 22:14-15 is clearly consistent with what He said throughout His Holy Word. Neither in the Old Testament to the Israelites, nor to those to whom He spoke when He was here on this earth, nor through the writings of John, James nor anyone else did our Lord indicate that by his works and obedience a man could earn his way into a relationship with the Lord. However, He is extremely clear that, once a personal relationship exists with the Lord, a person's private, internal choices which he makes will reflect and produce outward visible proof of that relationship. That is true because, as has been substantiated earlier in this lesson, choices have consequences. It all goes back to the basic principles which God set into motion when He placed **“the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden,”** and, simply stated is this: 1) the freedom to choose is accompanied by the responsibility of the choosing; and 2) each choice made produces a consequence. Alongside with those two principles can be stated: 1) choices result in a character, a nature, which expresses itself in outward, visible, life-style actions; 2) the nature or character of the person produced by his choices determines whether not he has the nature of the Lord or Satan in him, thereby determines where he will spend eternity, with the Lord or with Satan.

Verse fifteen lists six descriptions of people whose choices in life produce a character which is more like that of Satan than of the Lord, and describes those who cannot enter into the Lord's presence in His eternal heaven, but must spend eternity with Satan in the **“lake of fire burning with brimstone”** which was prepared for the devil. The list uses some descriptive terms of people which are normally used in relationship to those who are involved in idolatry, specifically in devil worship.

**“Dogs”** was a term used to refer to people of extremely low moral character; people whose life-style was, in a sense, animalistic. That is, they behaved more like animals, being controlled **more** by their fleshly lusts, than human beings created in the image of God. At times, it was specifically used as a designation for a male prostitute (Deuteronomy 23:18) who do indeed

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behave sexually very much like animals. As used in this verse its reference may actually have a broader meaning since the specific word for male prostitute, **pornoj** (4205), is listed but translated **“whoremongers.”** In at least three places God's Word specifically tells us that male prostitutes, **pornoj**, whom we identify as homosexuals today, will not be allowed into the Lord's eternal heaven, but will go into **“the lake that burns with fire and brimstone”** (1 Corinthians 6:9; Ephesians 5:5; Revelation 21:8). Of course, as is stated in 1 Corinthians 6:11, the blood of Jesus is fully capable of cleansing even such as these from satanic pollutions that would damn them into such a horrible destiny. However, as the Lord makes crystal clear, only those who choose to trust their lives to the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ and receive a new nature by which they live a life of obedience to the Lord will be set free from the condemnation of their sinfulness.

In addition to the above being often associated with devil worship, the other words, **sorcerers, murderers, and idolaters**, also describe life styles often resulting from choices to reject serving the Lord and choosing to serve the devil. **Sorcerers** is a translation of **pharmakos** (5333) and is now transliterated as pharmacy because it refers to drugs. **Murderers** are those who have a low value of human life, often taking the lives of others for personal gain or convenience and would even include those who kill babies in the womb for personal desires. **Idolaters** is self explanatory and applies to all of the above. Only the last description, **lying**, is singled out for a different type of wording because it is the basis of all of Satan's activity. Unfortunately, modern day church attenders often fail to recognize how much God hates **“lying.”** John 8:44 tells us that all **“lying”** flows directly from the devil. Far too many people, who think that they can excuse themselves because they say they are not guilty of the other things listed here also try to excuse themselves of their **“lying.”** God does not. God includes it. When the clear Word of the Lord is compromised or not communicated, a great disservice is done to many people who are described by one of these terms describing those who will not be allowed into God's heaven. Those, who are thus described by our Lord as not being qualified to enter His eternal heaven, are, at times, given false expectations and continue in their repulsive life styles rather than repenting of their sinfulness and submitting themselves to Jesus as Lord so that they can be cleansed by His blood.

Salvation is always provided through the grace of God. Nothing any man can do will qualify him for eternal life. It is totally a work of God. However, while obedience can never be the basis of establishing a relationship with the Lord, it is always the outward evidence that such a relationship does indeed exist. A life of disobedience indicates that a person does not belong to Jesus and, thus, will not be allowed into the Lord's eternal heaven.