

The Parish VISITOR



"Be Transformed...By the renewing of your minds." - Romans 12:2 - NIV

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
4011 Clinton St., Los Angeles, CA 90004-2298
The REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY, Pastor

cpchollywood.org

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FINAL CONFIRMATIONS

PART II

your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the readers of the *Parish Visitor*!

We continue the messages from the last chapter of the last book of the Bible. These messages talk about our eternal destiny in Jesus Christ. I pray they will encourage you.

Final Confirmations Part 2, Rev 22:6-21, originally given at CPC on 032722

Introduction: Today, we continue with the final verses in the book of the Revelation. First, a very quick review.

As we have discussed, the central part of John's vision ended with Rev. 22:5. These final verses of the book of the Revelation, verses 6-21, contain three elements: promise, confirmation and exhortation.

In these last verses, there is first, a reiteration of key promises. Second,

Continued next page



Welcome

JOIN US AT
CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD

In addition to the in-person worship, we continue to stream the service on Zoom for those unable to attend in-person.

The invitation for joining the service can be found at the events page on our website at cpchollywood.org.

You can send in your prayer requests PRIOR to the service via email to sbaroldy@gmail.com or text at 323-202-5078.

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional, healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered in JESUS CHRIST.

**“BEHOLD,
I am coming
SOON,
*bringing my recompense
with me, to repay each one
for what he has done.*”**

Revelation 22:12, ESV

there is further confirmation of who Jesus Christ is and what he will do when he returns. And, third, there is exhortation to keep and guard this word and do what it says.

So, again, there is promise, confirmation, and exhortation. This morning we continue with the confirmations in these last verses.

Jesus Christ brings his rewards/judgement: As a reminder, the book of the Revelation is about the Revelation of Jesus Christ. This book pulls back the veil and allows us to see into the heavenly realms. We are allowed to see who the resurrected, and glorified Lord Jesus Christ is right now.

For instance, Chapter 5 tells us Jesus Christ is the slain Lamb, the once for all sacrifice for the sins of the world, who now stands in the middle of God’s throne in heaven.

Chapter 17 and chapter 19 tell us Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. As King of kings, the Lord Jesus ultimately defeats all the kings of the earth, including world leaders like Putin. Putin’s power to cause death and destruction will end. It’s only a matter of time.

Now, the first confirmation we get about the Lord Jesus in these last verses is this. Jesus Christ will reward us, or judge us, according to what we have done in this life. Let me re-read verse 12. *“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.”* (Revelation 22:12, ESV)

When Jesus Christ returns, he will bring his recompense with him. The word “recompense” refers to rewards, or what a

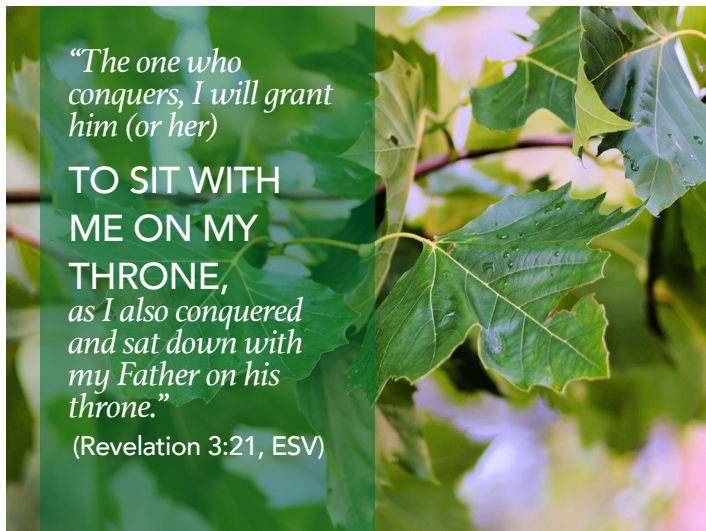
person has earned in “wages.”

So, Jesus Christ will pay each person for what they have done in this life, whether good or bad. Each one will receive what they have “earned” by how they lived their life.

Let’s talk about the bad news first. The bad news is this. Jesus Christ will judge those who rejected him. The Lord Jesus, from the great white throne, will judge each one according to their deeds in this life.

Let’s look again at Rev. 20:11-13. These verses read, *“Then I [John] saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.”* (Revelation 20:11–13, ESV)

We’ve talked about this before. So, here is the bottom line. If a person rejects Jesus Christ, they will be judged on their own actions and thoughts in this life. On the other hand, those who repented and received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will be judged according to what Jesus did, and thought in his life because, through their faith in Jesus, Jesus’ righteousness is credited to their account. This is the miracle of salvation.



And here's the hard reality. Scripture tells us those who have rejected Jesus have no chance of being judged righteous based on their own deeds. Rom. 3:23 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23, ESV) And Rom. 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23, ESV) Or, you could say, the recompense of sin is death.

Those who rejected Jesus Christ will earn the "wages" of their sin. They will be judged by Jesus for what they have done in their life. And, outside of Jesus, all will fall short. Those not in Jesus will be excluded from the new creation.

This is the Revelation's final warning to those who continue to reject Jesus. I don't take any pleasure in saying this, yet the coming judgement is real. So, we need to keep praying for those we know who are currently rejecting Jesus.

Now, here is the good news. Those who have repented and received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and remained faithful to Jesus to the end, will be rewarded. Here is a sampling of the rewards mentioned in the book of the Revelation.

Rev. 2:7 says, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers [remains faithful] I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." (Revelation 2:7, ESV)

Rev 2:10, "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10, ESV)

Rev. 2:26, "The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him [or her] I will give authority over the nations," (Revelation 2:26, ESV)

Rev. 3:21, "The one who conquers, I will grant him [or her] to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne." (Revelation 3:21, ESV)

So, our rewards include eating of the tree of life in the paradise of God; receiving the crown of life; being given authority over nations; and sitting with the Lord Jesus on his throne. That last one sounds good, doesn't it? I wonder what the view is like from the throne?

Rev. 22:12 confirms this sobering, eternal truth. When Jesus Christ returns, he will reward us, or he will judge us, according to what we have done in this life. The cost of rejecting Jesus is massive. The rewards of receiving him as Lord and Savior are also huge.

So, where do you stand? Have you received or rejected Jesus? On judgement day, do you want to stand on your own deeds, or on the deeds of Jesus? That is the eternal question.



Jesus Christ is the Source and Goal: Now, moving on, we get a second confirmation about Jesus in verse 13. In verse 13, Jesus says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Revelation 22:13, ESV)

Each of these phrases have been used before to describe Jesus Christ in the Revelation. Yet, this is the only place where all three are used together. They are used together, here, to drive home the truth about the centrality of the Lord Jesus Christ in creation.

"Alpha and Omega" are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. "The first and the last" are the first and last of any kind of listing. So, Jesus Christ is the first and last

Continued next page



“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Revelation 22:1, ESV)

of all that exists. That Jesus Christ is **“the beginning and the end”** reveals a deeper truth.¹ So, let’s look at this phrase for a moment.

Jesus Christ is the **“beginning.”** The word in the original language means the “source” of the series, or the “pattern” for the series that follows. We get our word “archetype” from this word.

So, as the **“beginning,”** Jesus Christ is the “source” of all that follows. In other words, everything that exists, everything that is created, has its source, has its pattern, and has its way of being, in Jesus Christ.

Every person who ever lived got their life from Jesus Christ, and in some way, is stamped with the character of Jesus Christ. Another way to say it is this. Jesus Christ gives humanity its pattern for living. The Apostle Paul said in Acts, chapter 17, that we “live and move and have our being” in Jesus Christ.

This is the image we get from Rev. 22:1 which says, **“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Revelation 22:1, ESV)**

All life flows from the throne of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, because Jesus Christ is the source of all life. Jesus Christ is the “beginning.” He is the source of all that follows.

Next, Jesus Christ is the **“end”** of all that is. Not only is Jesus the beginning, he is also the end. The word “end” in the original language is a specific word that means “goal” or “destiny.”

Jesus Christ is the destiny of all creation the same way an oak tree is the destiny of an acorn. An acorn grows into an oak tree. The acorn is the source. The oak tree is the destiny. So, you could say an acorn finds its fullness in the oak tree.

In the same way, creation finds its fullness in Jesus Christ. The end, the goal, the inherent destiny of all that exists, is Jesus Christ. The inherent destiny of every human is to be like Jesus Christ. This is God’s intention.

Now, just to be clear. This doesn’t mean every person will be saved. Only those who repent and believe in Jesus Christ will be in the new creation with Jesus.

Yet, the inherent destiny of every person born is to find fullness in Jesus Christ. And, because of this, Jesus Christ will not let go of any person without a fight.

Yet, Romans chapter 1, tells us, people actively, and willingly, suppress the truth of Jesus. Even though the truth of Jesus Christ as Creator is all around them, they actively resist the truth they are shown. And, in the process, they harden their hearts.

But, there is always hope because Jesus Christ is always coming. Jesus Christ is always revealing himself to humanity, and to our loved ones.

It is impossible to go through life without seeing the signs of Jesus Christ in creation, and in the lives of his people. And this gives us hope for our loved ones who are currently rejecting Jesus Christ. Jesus will not let them go without a fight.

Our call is to help Jesus light the way. Our call is to shine the light of Jesus Christ into any darkness we confront. We do this through the way we talk, through the way we act, especially when times are hard.

And, we are called to pray for those rejecting Jesus. And, ask for ways to plant seeds in those who are suppressing the truth about Jesus. These last verses give a final warning to those who are actively rejecting Jesus.

The Revelation calls us to discipleship by confirming who Jesus Christ is and what he will do when he returns. Let us hear God’s word and act accordingly! Amen.

1. I get this argument from: Johnson, Darrell W., *Discipleship on the Edge*, (Vancouver, B.C., Regent College Publishing, 2004) p.385-386.

Join us in
Worship
SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySlBjL1VkUmhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>
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FINANCIAL REPORT
NOVEMBER
2022

	<u>NOV. 2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 23,317	\$ 134,406
Disbursements	\$ 14,544	\$ 139,460
Increase (Deficit)	\$ 8,773	(\$ 5,054)

Gifts & Offering

We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting our ministry. Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

**Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
 4011 Clinton Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
 Who art in Heaven,
 Hallowed be thy Name.
 Thy Kingdom come,
 Thy Will be done,
 On earth as it is in Heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts,
 As we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 But deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the Kingdom and
 the Power and the Glory forever.

Amen



“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor.”

(Luke 4:18-19 & Isaiah 6:1-2).

“To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that HE may be glorified.” (Isaiah 61:3)

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING:

- Christ Presbyterian Church as a people of God have entered their 100th year of community. “A people called out to worship our Lord Jesus Christ and to witness to HIS Love for the world.”
- We are thankful! that “In Him” we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence...” (Ephesian 1:7-8)
- Pastor Steve and Simone give thanks that granddaughter Alice’s UC (Ulcerative Colitis) has been in recorded remission for 13 weeks! Praying the remission will last a year as evidence of complete healing and restoration of the digestive system.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING:

- Grieving is a long process. Let us keep remembering:
- Janet Nozaki and Kay Kamiyama: Emiko Kamiyama died September 23.
 - Stella’s sister Janet Tanamaha died early November.

FOR THOSE WHO NEED PHYSICAL HEALING:

- Pastor Ted Esaki was hospitalized for heart issues. Pray for strength and complete healing.

- Philip Nozaki, Janet’s son, had Covid in November. Pray complete healing and for protection of his remaining kidney.
- Janet Nozaki fell and it affected her back. Pray for healing and strength.
- Many in our community are having to endure Covid, flus, and colds. All these seem to lead to long lasting coughing. Pray that doctors would have wisdom that is applied to each individual situation and that whatever treatment is necessary it would be easily accessible.
- As Brian says, please pray for his “healing from the inside out.” Also pray for Denise to not fear or have anxiety for Brian, but, be comforted and strengthened for each day.
- Morsan McSweeney, one of our past interns who became a military chaplain and served in Afghanistan, has PTSD. Pray for her healing and restoration.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOME BOUND OR IN A CARE FACILITY:

Teresa Peteric (in extended care. Asked for pastoral care.) Leland Hayashi, Joan Janecek, Barbara Kashiwagi, Kimi Fujitani, Karen Koranye, Frank Morimoto, Janet Nozaki, Jean Sakai, Irene Mayeda caring for her mother Harumi. May each one know daily the comfort and care of our Lord Jesus. And may they each be filled with hope and strength needed for each day.

GENERAL:

- For the Dixon family: Will, lost his job for refusing to do what was wrong. Praying for a new job.
- Young Life ministry to reach more kids. Pray that God would give favor at the schools to have Lunch Club. Pray for student leaders for these Lunch Clubs.
- Praying that the Junior high and High school kids would develop an aversion to all pills that are not prescribed by their doctor.
- For our South American brothers and sisters in Christ: to have strength and courage to persevere in their witness of the life and hope we have in Christ Jesus.
- In the Gay community, may the people know the Lord Jesus Christ. That they may know that Jesus Christ is the only one who saves, restores, heals, and makes whole. (1Peter 2:9)
- For Mary Tran and family (Mary is the receptionist and all-around assistant in Kris' and Ida's dental office.) For salvation and healing for parents, husband and sisters.
- The Kostov family is returning Stateside for two months. Please pray for travel mercies, wonderful reunions with family, friends and ministry supporters.

OUR MISSIONARIES:

The Kenya REAL Ministries, and Janet who does the administrative work for Kenya REAL Ministries. The Kostov family who pastors in Vidin, Bulgaria. The Masons who are missionaries and pastor a church in Japan. Zebley family who pastor in Tokyo, Japan. Bob and Kristy Rice who pastor in South Sudan. Morsan McSweeney, a US military chaplain. Alison Puzio, area coordinator of Young Life ministries.

REMEMBERING OUR INTERNS:

Tamara John -Pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church Lakeside. Bob and Kristy Rice – Missionaries in the South Sudan, Sam Codington, Allison Becker – Pastor of a church in Scotland, Diane White -Pastor at Community Presbyterian, Pinetop, AZ, Holly Haines- traveling preacher, Morsan McSweeney -US military Chaplain, Charity Ngaruiya – hospital chaplain in LA county. (Ephesians 1:17-21)

FOR OUR SHEPHERDS:

Alison Puzio and Matty Miranda (Young Life ministry), Pastors Ernesto and Juana Salguero (Faro de Luz), Pastors Damon and Guia Woods, (Church on Melrose), Pastor Ted Esaki (El Estero Presbyterian Church), Pastors Andrew and Kate Alesso (Thrive LA), Pastors Logan and Gaby Lee (launching a new church plant, Ignite LA, in the Jefferson Park area).

Messiah Jesus has come, is with us and is coming again. Come Lord Jesus, come.
(December 2022)



How can we pray for you?

If you have prayer requests, you can send them via email or text PRIOR to our service each Sunday.

My email is sbaroldy@gmail.com.
You can text me at 323-202-5078.



CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD



**SUNDAYS at 11:00 A.M.
IN-PERSON OR ON ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting
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Password: 351955
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DATED MATERIAL

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