



SERIES: October “Back to the Future”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, 10/29/2021

Scripture: Revelation 22:8-13

TITLE: Reward for What?

Science-fiction writer Isaac Asimov said, “I don’t believe in an afterlife, so I don’t have to spend my whole life fearing hell, or fearing heaven even more. For whatever the tortures of hell, I think the boredom of heaven would be even worse.”

Tragically, too many people, Christians included, have a misconception of heaven. They think it’s going to be boring and like a bad dream. We’ve fallen victim to Satan’s strategies to slander God’s name and His dwelling place (Revelation 13:6).

But today, we can renew our excitement for heaven by looking at God’s Word. Here’s what John writes in Revelation 22:8-13 regarding our future rewards.

“I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers, the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.’

“And he said to me, ‘Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

One of the reasons I love and trust the Bible is the embarrassing facts it contains. John is overwhelmed by the visions that he falls down and worships the angel. He began to worship the creation and not the creator. But he quickly is corrected.

He charges John with not sealing the words of Revelation. Instead, they are to be spread far and wide. The angel makes an unusual statement about evildoers and the righteous. What he is saying is to decide if you’re going to follow Jesus or not. Go all-in for hell or heaven. Jesus is coming back, and there’s no turning back. Even apparent non-decision is a decision for hell. So decide.

And in verse 12, Jesus speaks again. He says, I am coming soon, and I will deliver just rewards for the saints. We know from Revelation 20 Jesus will judge the damned to eternity in hell. Each will suffer accordingly for his works.

So too, the Christians will be rewarded for their good works. What does this look like? The reward believers enjoying heaven will be capacities for serving God; the greater their faithfulness in this life, the greater their opportunity to serve in heaven. So do you want to rule more? Do you want to do more? Do you want to accomplish more in heaven? Many commentators think this is connected to your good works on earth.

I don't know about you, but I want to experience the most out of eternity, so here's my challenge for you today: Make the most of today. Knowing that Christ will return at any time should motivate us to diligent, obedient, worshipful service to God and urgent delivery of the Gospel to unbelievers. So live on purpose today.

Jesus is coming. Are you ready?