

“His Word is Truth”

Back on November 12th of 2022 my article explained Jesus' teaching in John 5:25-29 – words of Jesus misunderstood by many. Another Scripture text that many misunderstand

are the words of Jesus found in Revelation 22:12, **“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”** How are



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we to understand these words of Jesus?

First, how could Jesus reveal to the apostle John that He is “coming soon” when it’s been almost 2000 years since Jesus ascended to heaven? God’s view of the passing of time is not the same as ours. (See *2nd Peter 3:8-9!*) 2000 years is nothing to God who is eternal. Even more, the reason Jesus has not yet returned is that God wants as many as possible to hear His Word so that they might repent, trust in Jesus, and be saved from eternal judgment.

Second, many misunderstand the words of Jesus in Revelation 22:12 when He says **“My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”** As with Jesus’ words in John 5:29, many misunderstand Jesus’ words in Revelation 22:12 as though He is teaching that we merit eternal salvation by our good works. But this is NOT what Jesus means because such false teaching is in direct conflict with the rest of Scripture which clearly teaches that we are sinners who deserve only God’s wrath and that salvation

is a free gift earned for us by the death of God’s Son in our place of judgment. (See *Psalm 32; Psalm 51; Isaiah 53:4-12; Matthew 20:28; John 1:29 & 3:16; Romans 3:1-28; 2nd Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 3:1-29; Ephesians 2:1-10; Philippians 3:1-9; 1st Timothy 1:15-16; Titus 3:1-5; James 1:18; 1st Peter 2:22-25; 1st John 1:7 - 2:2*)

So, what IS Jesus teaching in Revelation 22:12? Simply put, when Jesus says that He will give to each person **“according to what he has done”** He is speaking of whether or not people repented of their sin and trusted in Jesus alone for salvation.

For example, in Revelation 22:14 Jesus also says the following: **“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”** Here Jesus is teaching that those who enter eternal life in God’s New Creation (see *Revelation 21:1-5 and 2nd Peter 3:13*) are those who have “washed their robes.” What does this mean? Revelation 7:14 gives the answer when it speaks of those who have eternal life with God: **“...they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”** Simply put, those who repent and trust in Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins (see *1st John 1:7 - 2:2*) are those who are forgiven and will live now and forever as God’s dearly loved children. So, repent and trust in Jesus TODAY!

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