

Pastor's Ponderings

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"Message Sent"

by

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"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star."

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let each one who hears them say, "Come." Let the thirsty ones come—anyone who wants to. Let them come and drink the water of life without charge. ¹⁸And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book.

¹⁹And if anyone removes any of the words of this prophetic book, God will remove that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.

²⁰He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!"

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

Revelation 22: 16-21 (NLT)

These are the last words in the last book of the Bible. Isn't it great that as a Christian, you know the end of the story? God promises throughout scripture that He will not leave us, forget about us, or forsake us. We know Jesus is coming again, and when He does we will be with Him for all of eternity.

I want to encourage you to follow a Bible reading plan in 2009. You may wish to follow a plan that includes the whole Bible, like the one at www.Bible-Reading.com.

However, the whole Bible may be too daunting of a task for you. That's fine. Why not commit to reading the New Testament in 2009? There is a good plan available through Discipleship Journal called the 5 X 5 X 5 Bible Reading Plan. It only takes 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week, and offers 5 ways to dig

deeper into God's Word. You can find it at www.discipleshipjournal.com.

Whether you choose to read the whole Bible or just the New Testament in 2009, I know from experience you will be blessed beyond measure for making and following through with this commitment. God's word is filled with promises, hope, encouragement, comfort, and blessing for all who read it. Don't miss out in 2009. Read the Bible daily and be built up in the faith like you never imagined before.

Re-look at the verses from the book of Revelation included at the beginning of this writing. Won't it be great to start 2009 with the promise of these verses reverberating in your head and heart? They contain the promise of Christ's return, our inclusion in the glorious riches of heaven, and the water of



life for all who thirst.

None of us knows the day of Christ's return. Jesus says "...***nor the Son, but only the Father,***" knows (Matt 24:36). We do know Jesus says, "***Yes, I am coming soon!***" It could be that one day in 2009 will be the day Jesus Christ returns.

God created you, sent His Son to redeem you, gives you the Holy Spirit to sustain you, and the Bible to inform and instruct you. Message sent! Will you read about it everyday? I pray you will. I know you'll be changed forever if you do.

My prayer for you is the same as the Apostle John's, "***The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.***"