

Revelation 1:1-3 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. 3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

People come to Bible studies on the book of Revelation for one or more of several reasons:

- some are curious about the book of Revelation, possibly because it tells the future, and everyone wants to know the future
- some enjoy controversial subjects, difficult questions, intellectually stimulating discussion
- some are brought here by their parents, so they are just there because they have to be

In our case here, let us come to this Bible study for the sake of blessing, of blessedness, of happiness

- Some of us know that we already live in a state of happiness, of blessedness, that comes from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We can come to this Bible study for the purpose of receiving from the Lord Jesus even more of the happiness, the blessedness that He gives; and we can come seeking that blessing from the Lord for those we bring with us or invite to be with us
- Some of us may know that we do not live in a state of happiness or blessedness. There are those who feel that despite some degree of outward or worldly blessedness, inside their lives are a mixture of fear, sorrow, anxiety, darkness, confusion, even despair. They long to have the happiness or blessedness that others seem to have. Such people can come to this Bible study seeking to find relief from their fears, sorrows, anxiety, and confusion; seeking to share in that state of happiness or blessedness

Our Lord Jesus Christ, by His servant John, promises that state of blessing on those who read and hear the words of this prophecy, and keep the things written in it.

### **“he that reads” or “the one who reads aloud”**

-of course there is blessing from God for anyone who reads the book of Revelation, or any of the Bible

-but the meaning here in verse 3 is he who reads it aloud to others

-including explaining it so that the hearers understand what it means

-Nehemiah 8:1-8

-especially what it means concerning Jesus Christ Himself

-Acts 8:26-35

-Acts 28:23

-in this case me, the church's pastor, and any other man who helps in this during the course of this study

-as a pastor, this is the main work I am to be engaged in; see 1 Timothy 4:13-16

-not that in reading the scriptures I am the *efficient* cause of salvation

-but in reading the scriptures I am the *instrumental* cause; the means by which God saves

-[those technical terms standard; I read them in John Gill]

### **“they that hear” or “those who hear”**

-sometimes the thought occurs to a person that merely to hear the Bible read and explained is not much, nothing special; but here the Lord pronounces a blessing on the act of hearing the Bible read

-no matter when and where people live, it is not entirely convenient to hear the Bible read and explained, whether hosting people at your own home, or travelling to some other meeting place

-it takes effort

-in much of human experience, it involves lots of walking; for us maybe lots of driving

-it requires managing children, which is harder than normal for a Bible study meeting

-it takes sacrifice

-often it has required exposure to cold and heat

-often it has required denying oneself sleep or rest

-it means missing an opportunity to do something else

-some leisure you enjoy

-some work you could be accomplishing

-it takes commitment

-good intentions

-other things come up

-of course we will be absent from time to time

-but here the Lord Jesus pronounces they that hear to be blessed

## **“and keep those things which are written therein”**

keep [G5083 *tereo*]

-this word used in chapter 3 in a way that explains what it means

Revelation 3:8-10 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. 9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. 10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

-this truth taught us profoundly by the Lord Jesus at the end of the Sermon on the Mount; see Matthew 7:24-27

-not being forgetful hearers, but believing hearers (Heb 4:2)

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

-and doers (James 1:22, 25)

James 1:22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 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: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

### **Summary:**

In this study of Revelation, there is a task before me, and a task before you:

I am to prepare myself, through study and prayer, then read this book of prophecy to you, and “give the sense,” or explain the meaning.

You are to make whatever reasonable efforts and sacrifices are necessary to attend upon the reading of this book of prophecy.

All of us together are to keep what we hear in this book of prophecy.

And we are to expect, as we do this, that we will be blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ!

Matthew 5:3-12

**Blessed** G3107 *makarios*

**3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

It could be that you are essentially proud

-the happiness of your life makes you think all is well between you and God

-the things you have in this life, such as physical strength and material wealth, give you a feeling of well-being by which you feel that everything you need, you already have, God already has given you

-that is not a state of blessedness

It could be that you are not essentially proud, because by God's grace you have been made to see your need of everything from Him. But temptation to think pridefully, to sin in the area of pride, still troubles your life as a Christian.

They that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep them, are blessed in that the words of this prophesy are a great help to a person, to help him understand how poor he is spiritually.

Revelation 3:17-21 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

If you hear those words, and keep them, you will be poor in spirit. Being poor in spirit is a state of blessedness, because those who are poor in spirit will find that the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Poole: as they will from it be comforted, concerning all the sufferings of the church, and people of God

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.  
10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

### **is he that readeth**

Knollys:

That is, so readeth, as he understandeth what he readeth...and so expoundeth what he readeth that the people may understand the reading, as they did Neh 8:8 and as the Apostle Paul did Acts 28:23

Nehemiah 8:8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

Acts 28:23 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

VWS:

The words imply a public, official reading

### **and they that hear...and keep those things which are written therein**

Knollys:

that is, They that are diligent hearers, who hear what the Spirit speaketh thereby to the churches (Is 55:3; Rev 2:7,11,17)

Isaiah 55:3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

-not being forgetful hearers, but believing hearers (Heb 4:2)

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