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| **Grant Street Baptist Church** | **Sermon Notes** |
| **Jeremy Beck** | **October 20, 2021** |

Title: *“The Straight and Narrow Path”*

Scripture: Revelation 22:1-21

Message: **1. The Pathway to Jesus** (vs’ 1-5)

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal (there was a River of Life in the Garden of Eden…water is often times used in the Bible to symbolize life…during the Tribulation Period, the rivers became blood, but in the Holy City they are pure and “clear as crystal”), flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (in Heaven the River of Life will serve as a constant reminder to us that the source of life is God) 2down the middle of the great street of the city (the street is like a two-laned street with the River of Life flowing between the two lanes…the streets are pure gold). On each side of the river stood the tree of life (in the Garden of Eden there was only one Tree of Life mentioned, but in the Holy City it appears that there will be many lining the banks of the River of Life), bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month (after the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, a cherubim angel was placed by the Tree of Life with a flaming sword to prevent man from eating of its fruit…in the Holy City man will once again be allowed access to the fruit of the tree in every season). And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations (the leaves are not intended as a cure, for sickness, disease and death have already been annihilated from the new heaven and earth…the leaves here preserve the health of the inhabitants of the Holy City). 3No longer will there be any curse (no more sin). The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, (the curse of sin prevented God from dwelling in the midst of man, but in the Holy City the curse will be replaced by the very presence of God) and his servants will serve him (serve means worship here so we know that Heaven’s inhabitants will spend eternity worshipping God…worship that is genuine, overwhelmed with praise at the presence and power of Almighty God). 4They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads (symbolizes ownership of who we belong to). 5There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever (infinity).

**2. The Pathway to Heaven** (vs’ 6-21)

6The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.” 7“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.” (a reiteration of Revelation 1:3…guaranteed blessings for those that study and obey the Revelation) 8I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me (John made this mistake before in Revelation 19:10). 9But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!” 10Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near (for many the book of the Revelation is deep, dark and mysterious…God never intended for it to be so…the reason the book is not sealed is because it is describing events that are already beginning to happen). 11Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.” (because Christ is coming, we should be ready) 12“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done (our eternal rewards will be determined by our actions and deeds). 13I am the Alpha and the Omega (all knowing = Omniscient), the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (all places at all times = Omnipresent). 14“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. 15Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood (same description of the wicked in Revelation 21:8…does not mean that the wicked are outside the walls of the city, they are in the Lake of Fire). 16“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches (first time the word church has been mentioned since Revelation 3 at the rapture / beginning of the Tribulation Period). I am the Root and the Offspring of David (Jesus declaring He is the Messiah as prophesied in the lineage of David), and the bright Morning Star (the morning star is the star that rises at dawn when it is darkest…a reference to His Second Coming).” 17The Spirit (Holy Spirit) and the bride (the New Testament church) say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life (the gospel message). 18I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. 19And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. 20He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” (Jesus’ coming will bring judgment upon the sinner and glory to the redeemed) Amen. Come, Lord Jesus (John’s a little excited!). 21The grace (the Bible ends with the word Grace…Ephesians 2:8 “8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast.”) of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

Application:

* *The Straight and Narrow Path*
* Matthew 7:14“But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”
* The Pathway to Jesus: the streets of gold that will take us to the physical presence of God, with the River of Life running between the lanes, with the Tree’s of Life on the banks all symbolize that eternal life was given to us through Jesus Christ.
* John 10:10 “…I have come to give you life and life to the fullest”
* The Pathway to Heaven: the pathway to Heaven is through Jesus and Jesus alone…by His grace…He is begging all sinners to come! We as the church should be begging all sinners to come!
* John 14:6 “6Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
* If anyone enters hell it will be only because they stepped over the bloody, bruised and battered body of Jesus to get there.
* Will you come so you too can be like John with excitement saying, AMEN, COME LORD JESUS!
1. [Matthew 7:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7:15#en-NIV-23332) : [Eze 22:27; Ac 20:29](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezek%2022:27,%20Acts%2020:29&version=NIV)