



**Prairie  
Tabernacle**

**April 3, 2011**

**Tim Strickland**

## **Future Things Part 11**

***Future Things for Today***  
Various Passages

**Revelation 22:6-21** And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." <sup>7</sup> "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." <sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. <sup>11</sup> Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." <sup>12</sup> "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." <sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. <sup>16</sup> "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." <sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. <sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

**Hebrews 11:16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

### **Future Things for Today – Final "Future Things" Message**

a. The purpose of today's message is to look back on the Future Things Series and reflect on the lessons of Biblical prophecy

## **1. Looking Back at the Future Things Series**

1. A Vision of the Future
2. The Tribulation
3. The Antichrist
4. The Rapture
5. The Second Coming
6. The Millennium
7. The Nation of Israel
8. Final Judgment
9. Hell
10. Heaven
11. Future Things for Today

(All sermon audio and notes available for no charge at [www.prairietab.com](http://www.prairietab.com) , or for order from the church office at a modest cost)

## **2. Key Lessons from Future Things**

- a. You receive a blessing by keeping the words of Biblical prophecy
  - Revelation 1:3, 22:7
  - I have found it to be true for me in preaching this series
- b. You need to be ready for Jesus' return
  - Matthew 24:44, 2 Cor. 6:2b *Now is the day of salvation*
  - Have you repented of your sin and put your faith in Jesus?
- c. You will spend eternity in either Hell or Heaven
  - Many will go to Hell and few will go to Heaven
  - Matthew 7:13-14, John 3:16-18, 36
- d. You need to be ready to share your faith with lost people who are on the wide road to Hell
  - 1 Peter 3:15
- e. You will one day stand before God and give an account for your life
  - What you do in your lifetime matters for eternity
  - 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Revelation 20:11-15, Mt. 25:31-46
- f. You earn Heavenly rewards through Earthly faithfulness
  - Revelation 22:12, Matthew 6:19-20
  - Salvation is by grace, rewards are by merit
- g. Your future is bright if you believe in Jesus
  - You can live with great hope and excitement about the future
  - Revelation 20-22
- h. You were designed to reign over the Earth, with Christ as your King
  - That is what believers will do for all eternity – Rev. 22:5
- i. You were created for God to live with you
  - Revelation 21:3
- j. You should watch and pray for Jesus to return
  - Revelation 22:20b "Amen. Come Lord Jesus!"

### 3. Personal Reflections: Living with a "Future Lean"

- a. When you know what is going to happen in the future, it should change how you live in the present
- b. Too many times we live thinking no more than a week or a month or a year ahead, with little thought of God's future plans
- c. A major reason why it is worthwhile to give your life in Christ's service now is because of His promises to you of reward and joy in the future, for all eternity!
- d. You are accountable to God. It changes how you work and live when you keep that fact in mind.
- e. The present things will pass away quickly, in light of eternity
- f. Hell is terribly real.
- g. The Millennial Kingdom will be great!
- h. Heaven will be awesome!
- i. Thinking about Future Things is:
  - A Reality Check
  - An Intensity Check

### 4. Do you long for Jesus' Return?

- a. Jesus has promised that He is coming SOON. But do you long for that day? Do you wake up thinking, 'maybe today will be the day?'
  - **Revelation 22:21** *He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*
- b. Do you long to be made holy? When Jesus returns all believers will be made holy and will never sin again!
  - **1 John 3:2-3** *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*
- c. Do you long for justice? When Jesus returns, every person will be judged; justice will be done.
  - Revelation 20:11-15, Acts 17:30-31
- d. Do you long for Heaven? Do you long for Home? – Hebrews 11:13-15
  - *...strangers and exiles...they are seeking a homeland...*
  - *They desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one*
  - *But our citizenship is in heaven... Philip. 3:20-21*
  - *...lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... Mt. 6:19-20*

## **Our Response**

1. If you have never trusted in Jesus as your Saviour, trust in Him today! Ask Jesus to save you from your sins, that you might receive the gift of eternal life, and spend forever with Him in Heaven.
2. Spend some time praying for people you know who are not believers that God will save them! Pray that they will respond to the gospel.

**Philip. 3:20-21** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**Revelation 22:12-15** <sup>12</sup> "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." <sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

## **Questions for Personal Application & Small Group Discussion**

1. Do you long for Jesus' return? Why? Why not? Discuss.
2. Are you prepared to share about Christ with people? Can you share your faith succinctly in less than a minute or two? Can you share your faith more completely in five to ten minutes? Can you answer basic questions that people ask, such as "Don't all religions teach the same thing?" Are you ready to give an answer for the hope that is within you? Discuss.
3. Do you ever think about the time you will stand before God and give an account for your life? When you serve Him now, do you think about standing before Him?
4. Are there things in this world to which you are holding on too tightly, in light of the future? Where do you need to loosen your grip?
5. Have you ever trusted in Jesus as your Saviour? If not, trust in Him today! Ask Him to forgive your sins and begin trusting in Him for your salvation. He promises He will hear your prayer and save you and take you to be with Him in Heaven one day.
6. Spend some time praying for one or two unbelievers you know, that they would receive salvation through Jesus. Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with them, and watch for God to answer your prayer!

### **Questions, Comments?**

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please send me an email at this address:  
**[questions4tim@prairietab.com](mailto:questions4tim@prairietab.com)**

Thanks, Tim

