

## “I Am Coming Soon!”

‡ Guard the treasure. (vv.6-9)  
‡ My reward is with me. (vv.10-13)

In the name of Jesus, *the faithful and genuine witness, ruler of God’s creation*, dear saints of God:

Two weeks ago, after the service, one of the youngest listeners leaned in as I reached for her hand. At first, I thought she just wanted a hug, but then her tiny voice said something, barely a whisper. Her mom translated: “She’s telling you, *immerdar*.” Yes! I had mentioned the last verse of my Granddad’s funeral sermon on Luther’s German from Psalm 23:6 – ***And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever – immerdar.*** After that funeral sermon my mother’s friend would always greet her: “*Immerdar!*” As we sang in the last verse of our closing hymn two weeks ago: *Hear heaven’s voices sing; their thund’rous anthem rings through em’rald courts and sapphire skies; their praises rise, All glory, wisdom, power, strength, thanks and honor are to God our King who reigns on high forevermore.*<sup>1</sup> In heaven we’ll be singing the Lord’s praises and cheering His victory forever, then more...*forevermore.* *When we’ve been there 10,000 years, bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.*<sup>2</sup> We can hardly wait when Jesus says, “**I am coming soon!**”

‡ Guard the treasure. (vv.6-9)

What does “soon” mean to a child. “When can I go over my friend’s house?” “Soon.” “When are we going home?” “Soon.” “When will all our suffering in this world end?” “Soon.” What does “Soon” mean to *the Alpha and the Omega*, the eternal God, for whom “*one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.*” (2 Peter 3:8 EHV) How can we not be impatient or indifferent in time?

Let’s illustrate with my Granddad’s “stoop.” Not that he was bent over, but the “stoop” or steps up into a house we were remodeling for him. Four or five steps on a chunk of flat concrete – “How are we going to get rid of that?” I asked. “Why don’t you dig a hole and bury it?” It was tricky to dig close enough to pull it in with a small tractor, but not so close that the side would cave in on me down there digging. But when the dirt filled the hole, who knew? Who remembered the “stoop,” the tiny porch?

Here’s a **treasure to guard**. In this life, we’re just on the porch, outside in the storms. Once inside God’s heavenly mansions, everything big, hard, and clunky will be gone for good...*forevermore.*

*The angel said to me, “These words are faithful and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”* Earth’s existence is like a drop of water in the sea of eternity. And the Lord’s prophets have been busy as Jesus explained to the Emmaus disciples – so depressed. They could not recognize their resurrected Friend and Savior walking right there with them. They could not understand why their Messiah was crucified. ***He said to them, “How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*** (Luke 24:25–27 EHV)

Messiah did not suffer buyer’s remorse. No price was too high to reconcile us to God. Mercy delivered the one and only Savior Jesus who is *the faithful, genuine witness* of God’s grace. He came first to suffer and die. Nothing can stop Him from coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

**Guard the treasure** of Him who promises, “**Look! I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who [guards and treasures] the words of the prophecy of this book.**” For too long Lutherans neglected

Revelation. But when they started to dig into the exegesis, word-by-word study of the Greek original, the book of Revelation proves to be the most anti-Millennialistic book of the Bible. It's all about Jesus who told Pontius Pilate, **"My kingdom is not of this world."** (John 18:36) It's a commentary on two Bible passages: ***We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*** (Acts 14:22), and, ***The gates of hell shall not prevail against the church.*** (Matthew 16:18)<sup>1</sup> God's truth brings great blessings.

Can you relate to John? He was seeing such wonders in heaven that twice he fell down to worship the angel. (19:9; 22:9) What is it about worshipping angels, whether in reruns like *Touched by An Angel*, or more modern media where angels supposedly independent from God? Some say, "I believe in angels," but why? Is it because God tells us about angels in His Word? Good! Then **Guard the treasure** by worshipping God alone. He created all the angels good, but damned the angels who rebelled with Satan and became demons cast out of heaven. Now they're chained in gloomy dungeons until the Last Day. Satan rages against God and His people because ***he knows his time is short.*** (Revelation 12:12) The angel warned John: ***"Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and also with those who hold on to the words of this book. Worship God!"*** Guard the treasure of God's Word.

### ‡ My reward is with me. (vv.10-13)

If I asked, "Who wrote the *Chronicles of Narnia*, such as *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*?" I'm guessing a fair number of adults and children could tell me, "C. S. Lewis." He fell away from faith in his teens, but then was brought back by Christian friends like J.R.R. Tolkien (*Lord of the Rings*) Of course, Hollywood wants these stories to be about magic and nothing about God – like worshipping angels instead of God. But C. S. Lewis began writing the *Chronicles of Narnia* for British children evacuated from London during the bombings by Nazi Germany in WWII. Such stories can be a helpful way to picture life's battles and the glorious hope of heaven. But there's nothing like just listening to Jesus, the Word.

Jesus' angel counsels, ***"Do not seal up..."***, i.e., loudly proclaim ***"the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near."*** But why say, ***"Let the one who is unjust continue to be unjust. Let the one who is filthy continue to be filthy"?*** Why not just stick with, ***"Let the one who is just continue to do what is just. Let the one who is holy continue to be holy"?*** An insight from C. S. Lewis helps: "There are two types of people in the world – those who say to God, 'Thy will be done'; and those to whom God says, 'Thy will be done.'" We're surrounded by those who deny God's very existence and call it "science," then fail to listen to their own "science" or other scientists who simply disagree. "Don't judge me!" they say. God says He will, and in some cases already has when God says to them, "Thy will be done." Hell is God's eternal – "Thy will be done" – infinite torment, weeping and gnashing of teeth.

But God ***"wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*** (1 Timothy 2:4) Christ ***died for all....God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.*** (2 Corinthians 5:19) Isn't that amazing? God says, "Your guilt is gone because I washed away all your sins with my blood. Take my righteousness as a free gift of grace." ***The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.*** (2 Peter 3:9 EHV) Say to God, "Thy will be done."

Jesus wants to richly bless one and all. He still calls out today to all who will listen, ***"Look, I am coming soon and my reward is with me, to repay each one according to what he has done.*** [evidence!] ***I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."*** When history swirls down to the Last Day, Jesus will open the door to heaven and say, "Come on in off the porch." And once inside, surprise! Jesus will be dressed to serve you at His banquet table with the rich reward of eternal life – ***fulness of joy...pleasures forever*** with God. ***Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*** Amen.

For *The Preacher's Apprentice (TPA)* sermon study or copies: [m.cordes@comast.net](mailto:m.cordes@comast.net) .

New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

You can also call: 651-484-1169. Hear the sermon at [www.newlifeshoreview.com](http://www.newlifeshoreview.com) .

180 County Rd F - Shoreview, MN 55126