

Revelation 22:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Analysis

This verse presents the sobering reality that choices have consequences that become fixed. The repetition emphasizes permanence—the unjust continues in injustice, the righteous in righteousness. This isn't fatalism but recognition that character solidifies through choices. Reformed theology sees this as describing final judgment's result—the impenitent are confirmed in sin, the righteous in holiness. The present-tense 'let him be' doesn't encourage sin but recognizes that persistent rejection or acceptance of Christ produces permanent states. The time for change ends at death or Christ's return.

Historical Context

Ancient legal declarations of 'let it be so' finalized judgments. This pronouncement warns that opportunity for repentance is limited. First-century believers facing persecution needed encouragement that their righteous choices were establishing permanent character, while persecutors' evil would lead to permanent judgment. The warning motivated urgent evangelism before the door closed.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the recognition that character becomes permanent motivate you toward present holiness and evangelistic urgency?
2. What does this verse teach about the reality of eternal destinies being fixed—is there biblical support for post-mortem chances for salvation?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	ἀδικησάτω	ἀδικησάτω	ἔτι	καὶ	ὁ	ρῦπασάτω
G3588	He that is unjust	He that is unjust	still	and	G3588	he which is filthy
	G91	G91	G2089	G2532		G4510
ρῦπασάτω	ἔτι	καὶ	ὁ	δίκαιος	δικαιωθήτω	ἔτι
he which is filthy	still	and	G3588	he that is righteous	let him be righteous	still
G4510	G2089	G2532		G1342	G1344	G2089
καὶ	ὁ	ἅγιος	ἀγιασθήτω	ἔτι		
and	G3588	he that is holy	let him be holy	still		
G2532		G40	G37	G2089		

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 12:10 (Parallel theme): Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Proverbs 4:18 (Righteousness): But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

2 Timothy 3:13 (Parallel theme): But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Ezekiel 3:27 (Parallel theme): But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house.

Job 17:9 (Righteousness): The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

Matthew 5:6 (Righteousness): Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Matthew 15:14 (Parallel theme): Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Jude 1:24 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Proverbs 14:32 (Righteousness): The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Matthew 25:10 (Parallel theme): And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.