

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Hebrews 12:1-2 (*English Standard Version*)

<sup>8</sup>And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup>A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.

- Genesis 2:8-10 (*English Standard Version*)

<sup>1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

<sup>6</sup>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."

- Revelation 22:1-7 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

There are two starkly contrasting scenes, one at the beginning of the Bible and one at the end. In the beginning scene, we see Adam and Eve quickly clothing themselves and hiding from God in the guilt and shame that is the sad result of their sin (Genesis 3)...The second scene is the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19). It too is a gathering of sinners, but they aren't cowering in shame. They aren't hiding in guilt. They aren't dreading his presence. They don't fear the power of his anger. No, these sinners are celebrating because the bond that was broken in the garden has been restored. They have been wed to their Savior forever. Forever they will be in his presence. Never again will they be separate from him. Never again will they hide. Never again will they be driven away. Their fellowship will never end. The sound of their celebration will never grow quiet. Their robes have been washed to purest white. They are clothed in the righteousness of another. They are accepted because of him. There is no condemnation before them. There is no sin that separates them. It is a scene of such outrageous beauty that describing it would stretch human language beyond its limits.

- Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies* (June 29)

# Sermon Outline

## The Author and Finisher

Hebrews 12:1-2; Genesis 2:8-10; Revelation 22:1-7

*Cover to Cover*

Brad Anderson

*God works through faith in Jesus Christ to bring about a promise in you...*  
(Hebrews 12:1-2)

### What is the heart of that promise?

**You will be my people...** (Genesis 2:8-10; Revelation 22:1-7)

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**I will be your God...** (Genesis 2:8-10; Revelation 22:1-7)

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**We will dwell together forever...** (Genesis 2:8-10; Revelation 22:1-7)

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## Reflection Questions

- Where are we in the overall story of the Bible?
- How do we see Jesus in this passage or in these books?
- What are the fallen conditions addressed by the passage that highlight our need for grace?
- How do we see this applying to us today?