

“Are You Ready to Meet Your Maker?”

Elder Wes Friesen

Question: Are you ready to meet your Maker?

Acts 17:31 (all verses NIV): “For He has set a day when **He will judge the world** with **justice** by the man (Jesus) He has appointed. He has given **proof** of this to all men by raising Him (Jesus) from the dead”. (See also John 5:28-29)

Every person will be judged by his or her Maker (God the Father and Jesus Christ). The judges are just and the judgments will be righteous (Romans 2:5; Acts 17:31; II Timothy 4:1,8). There are two different final judgments:

- 1) **Unbeliever’s Judgment** (“Great white throne judgment” – for people who do not have their name in the Book of Life. Book of life is mentioned in Ex 32:32-33; Ps 69:28; Dan 12:1; Phil 4:3; Rev 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12-15, 21:27). Described in Revelation 20:11-15. **Verdict = guilty. Sentence = life sentence, cast into the lake of fire (eternal hell).** Degree of punishment will vary, but all will be punished (Mathew 11:20-24; Luke 10:13-14, 12:47-48; Romans 2:6,12; Revelation 20:11-15).
- 2) **Believer’s Judgment** (“Bema seat judgment” – for people who have their names in the Book of Life - Rev 21:27). Described in II Corinthians 5:9-10. **Verdict = not guilty. Sentence = life sentence, living with Jesus in heaven.** Degree of rewards will vary.

Biblical truths and principles to help us be well prepared for judgment day:

- 1) **All b_____ will be j_____ for their a_____ and m_____.**

I John 2:28 “And now, dear children, continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be **confident** and **unashamed** at His coming”.

Hebrews 4:13 “**Nothing** in all creation is **hidden** from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we **must give account**”.

Romans 14:10-12 “...For we will **all stand** before God’s judgment seat ... so that each of us **will give account** of himself to God”.

Revelation 22:12 “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone **according to what he has done ...**”.

II Corinthians 5:9-10 “So we make it our **goal to please Him**, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we **must all appear** before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may **receive what is due him** for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad”.

Read: I Corinthians 3: 10-15, 4:5

- 2) **The Bible mentions the ability to earn “crowns”, “praise”, “treasure” and “rewards”** (I Cor 9:25; II Tim 4:8; Jam 1:12; I Pet 5:4; Rev 2:10; I Cor 4:5; Mat 5:11-12, 6:19-20; Eph 6:8;

Col 3:23-24; Rev 22:12). **Perhaps our greatest reward will be to hear “well done, good and faithful servant!”.**

Parable of the Talents from Matthew 25:14-30 “... Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness! ...”.

There are a number of major motivations that encourage us to serve God. All of these can be useful motivators:

- a) **Love** – unconditional love is the highest and best motivation to serve. But the reality is that we are human and imperfect, so additional motivators are sometimes needed.
- b) **Appreciation** – we want to serve God out of appreciation for all He has done for us.
- c) **Obedience/Duty** – we may choose to serve because we are told to.
- d) **Fear** – we may serve because we are afraid of the consequences of not serving; or we serve because we are in “awe” of God.
- e) **Incentives** – God knows us well and knows that incentives can be powerful motivators, so He included numerous mentions of incentives in His word.

3) **It is very important to develop a life Purpose, Goals and Plans.**

“In life, as in football, you won’t go far unless you know where the goal posts are”.
Conrad Hilton

“He who has a why to live can bear almost any how”. Unknown

“Success is the progressive realization of a worthy ideal”. Earl Nightingale

“You can choose to be mediocre or you can choose to strive for excellence ... the choice is yours”. Wes Friesen

Case Study: **Apostle Paul**

Philippians 3:7-17 “...I press on towards the **goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”.

Acts 20:24 “...I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and **complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me** – the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace”. See also Philippians 1:21-26; I Corinthians 9:24-27

4) **It is important to have the “right” purpose, plans and goals.**

“What could be worse than to climb the ladder of success, only to find it is against the wrong wall”. Unknown

Our purpose, goals and plans should include:

- a. **Goals** (I Corinthians 10:31).

b. L_____ G_____ and L_____ P_____ (Great Commands – Matthew 22:34-40).

c. M_____ D_____ (Great Commission - Matthew 28:19-20).

d. S_____ O_____ (Matthew 20:25-28).

5) **We should work to make our l_____ c_____, and to leave a p_____ l_____.**

Proverbs 10:7 “The memory of the righteous will be a **blessing**, but the name of the wicked will rot”.

“Don’t let ‘well done’ on your tombstone mean that you were cremated!”. H.L. Menken

“Life is a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you can only spend it once”. Lillian Dickinson

“The legacy you will leave tomorrow is based on what you are doing today”. Wes Friesen

“Where you start is not as important as where you finish”. Zig Ziglar

Case Study: Jephthah (see Judges 11)

6) **Good news! We are not alone! J_____ is our partner and wants to help us be successful!**

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Jesus who strengthens me”

2 Corinthians 3:15 “Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but **our competence comes from God**”.

John 15:5 “**If** we abide in Jesus, we will bear **much fruit**; apart from Jesus we can do **nothing**”.

I Corinthians 3:9 “For we are God’s **fellow workers**” (see also II Cor 6:1).

II Corinthians 5:20 “We are therefore **Christ’s ambassadors**, as though God were making His appeal through us”.

Hebrews 13:5-6 “**Be strong and courageous ... He will never leave you nor forsake you ... The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?**”.

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OUR JUDGING

Biblical Principles:

- 1) **We should make j_____ for ourselves** (I Cor 2:15).

I Corinthians 2:15: “The spiritual man makes **judgments** about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man’s judgment”.

However, “a wise man listens to the advice of others” (Prov 12:15).

- 2) **We should n_____ judge others, but leave that role for God** (Romans 2:1-16, 14:4, 10-13; Mat 7:1-5; Luke 6:37; James 4:11-12).

Key passage: Romans 2:1-16

- 3) **We should e_____ others, and instruct and exhort** (I Thes 2:10-12, 4:8, 5:11; Col 2:2; Heb 10:24-25; Rom 15:14; Col 3:16).