

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"

June 9, 2019

"AND AFTER THIS COMES JUDGMENT"

by Jim Stauffer

Hebrews 9:27 should serve to put us all on notice. *"And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,"* God in heaven is in charge of the affairs of this Universe and we as his creation need to respond to Him as He has requested. Now it is in our best interest to understand what has God requested.

We remember well how His power and authority in the Universe has been displayed. We see around us His handiwork in nature and in a cosmos that sustains itself as He authorizes (**Psa. 19; Rom. 1:20; Col. 1:17**). We would never utter words to the contrary. The question is would our behavior indicate we either doubted His authority or believed He somehow would not keep His promises.

Paul tells us in the Old Testament Scriptures are for *...our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.* (**Rom. 15:4**) That only works for us if we actually read and study those Scriptures and also believe them fully.

Asa was one of the good kings of Judah who was told by the prophet Azariah, *....."Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the LORD is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."*

(**2 Chronicles 15:2**) Asa did many things for God's people that pleased the Lord, but in the end he trusted in the power of the armies of men instead of the God Who had previously delivered victory to him over his enemies. As He had promised, when Asa turned to the army of Aram for strength he was turning away from his trust in God and God turned away from him.

That lesson is repeated many times over among the kings of Israel and Judah. Often enough for us to learn, if we will study, that God will not forsake us if we do not forsake Him (**Heb. 13:5**).

It is incumbent upon any and all who desire *...every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,* (**Eph. 1:3**), to learn from those who succeeded and failed in

their relationship with God. Obedience is what God has repeated to man over and over throughout history (**1 Cor. 10:6**). Jesus explains, *...the tree is known by its fruit.* (**Mat. 12:33**) He repeats this message when He tells us how to identify false prophets. *You will know them by their fruits.* He goes on to tell us those trees who produce bad fruit are *...cut down and thrown into the fire.* (**Mat. 7:15-19**) This is followed by the passage that reminds us there will be those who believe they are producing good fruit. *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"* (**Matthew 7:21-23**) These are the folks who will stand before the Lord in judgment *...so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.* (**2 Cor. 5:10**)

Notice they will be judged according to their deeds, and many will believe their deeds were good when in actuality they were bad. How is that? Because they did those things THEY thought were good. Much like Asa in the Old Testament. But they were not the will of the Father in heaven.

God pleads with us throughout Scripture to obey Him. He does not plead with us to do things we believe are good, but rather to do the things He has commanded. *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."* (**John 14:15**)

When I stand before the judgment seat of Christ I will not be judged by what some church said was a good thing to do, but rather by the words of Jesus, *"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."* (**John 12:48**) And I will stand before that

judgment seat of Christ because *...it is appointed for men to die once and after this the judgment.*

Preparing To Die

Sure, this is not a pleasant subject by any means. True, some of us realize we are closer to this event than others might be, but we still have to keep in mind that God can end it all at any moment for anyone and everyone.

"Let us, then, talk about preparing to die. It is the greatest thing we have to do, and we have soon to do it, so let us talk and think something about it." (Charles Spurgeon). Mr. Spurgeon is right. The greatest thing we have to do in this life is to prepare to die, for that is precisely what we all are going to do (**Hebrews 9:27**).

But also, realize that preparing to die is preparing to live. The best thing we can do in this preparation is to seek God and make sure He is pleased with us. We can do this by learning what is pleasing to the Lord and doing those things. Luckily, this does not have to be a guessing game, for God has already told us what is pleasing to Him. He revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures exactly what pleases Him. So if we study the scriptures and apply what we learn to our everyday living, we will do those things that please Him.

One great benefit of preparing to die is in the fact that our living takes on new meaning and gives us a purpose for living. Sadly, many people see no farther than the grave. They do not realize there is a judgment coming (**Hebrews 9:27**) and an afterlife that is one of two destinies. The Bible speaks of these two destinies in several places (**Romans 2:5-11**).

Preparing to live not only covers the fulfilled life we can experience in our daily routine; but it also covers the fact that if we live a life pleasing to God, He will give us eternal life. This eternal life will be one of joy, peace, and happiness. It will be a life of glory, and we will be offering glory to God forever. Just thinking about heaven should motivate us to greater service towards God. *"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth"* (**Colossians 3:2**).

There are several times in the New Testament where we are required to die and then we can live. **Colossians 3:4** reads: *"For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God"*. Later on in **verse 5** we read that we should consider the earthly members of sinful flesh to be dead, and in **verse 10** we read that we are to put on the new self.

Our baptism is a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Christ. And for us, it is burying the old self of sin, and being raised to walk in newness of life (**Romans 6:3-6**).

Jesus said that He came to give life and life more abundantly (**John 10:10**). This means a fuller life. One

that has meaning and purpose. It challenges us to do our very best and to help others do the same. It leads us to a life of service towards others, and helping them see the benefit of serving God and others in their own lives. This new life should be so encouraging and fulfilling that we spend time with each other helping each other get to heaven.

Our lives can be full and fulfilling, but only if we are prepared for the time when our bodies give up the spirit. Then the spiritual body will rise immortal to join Jesus and God in eternity, and we will be with Them forever. So, take some time to think about dying. It is not a pleasant thought, but realize the end of life is actually a beginning for your destiny.

By Carey Scott

THE JUDGMENT

The Apostle Paul spoke of the *"day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel"* (**Romans 2:16**). The number of people who no longer believe in a place called *hell* is increasing. Some who deny the existence of a place called hell do so because they believe hell's existence is contrary to the love and goodness of God. After all, if God is a good God and loves all people, then how could he send anyone to hell for all eternity?

While it is true that God loves all people, the question is: Does He love all people in the same way or in the same equal way? That is, what about people who do not love God and have no interest in serving Him? **Isaiah 48:11** says: *"For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another."* What of those who refuse to give God the glory? The life God has given to all is not an end in itself; the life God has given to each of us is for a higher purpose than simply living for self. **Psalms 97:6** says: *"The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples see His glory."* But when we pervert our life by defying God and His word, how can it be said that we do not deserve to be punished in hell? The glory of God is upheld when sinners are punished. To refuse the just desserts of sin is to deny God His glory.

God gives life and blessings to all; material blessings (food and rain, etc.) are common to all, good and bad alike. **Romans 9:15** says: *"For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.'" God can save those whom He chooses. And He chooses not to save all, because not all will give Him the glory. When this refusal is made, man becomes subject to the judgment in the sense that the judgment will bring to him condemnation (**John 5:28-29**).*

The fact of the judgment is tied inextricably to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. *"Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness"*

by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). While many will deny the fact of hell, those same people will cling tenaciously to the hope the resurrection of Jesus brings. You can't have one without the other. The reality is: We have both. And both can help us in our service to the Lord. *"Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences" (2 Corinthians 5:11).* The fact of judgment is a good motivator for righteous living. *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20).* The resurrection of Jesus from the grave gives us confidence and hope. Rather than denying plain Bible teaching about hell or the resurrection, let us live our lives in consideration of God's will. Let us be content to live within the confines of His word.

Randy Harshbarger

God is No Old Softie

As I write this article we are taking our eyes off the weather report for a bit. Some of the members of the Lord's church here in El Dorado got over eight inches of rain during the previous 48 hours. After being flooded just two weeks ago we got hit again. In this area we didn't have serious tornadic activity but in some areas not far distant there was some. Someone opened a phone conversation with me recently asking how far along I was on my ARK.

It's called grim humor and we all understand it but it also got me to thinking: How must the people of Noah's day felt as they looked at the skies and saw rain for the first time. Their rain was much heavier and far worse than anything we've seen. Unlike us they had no confidence of a stopping point in view for indeed there was none. When we see flood waters rising we can move to higher ground. Some of you know the anxiety of seeing the water approaching your homes and businesses. How must the people of Noah's day felt? What happened when there was no higher ground to go to? It was terrifying to them, I'm sure, but God did not relent till they were but a memory.

I say all that to remind us that the Almighty is not some Old Softie up in the sky that is going to bless and bless and bless without ever judging our sin! When He says it is time for judgement to begin, of a family, a nation or the world, then it will not be soft.

The Hebrew writer said it right. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **(Hebrews 10:31)**

Cleveland R. Reddinger Jr.

Must A Thing Be Prohibited?

Some think they are at liberty to introduce anything into God's worship, providing God has not, in so many words, prohibited it. This is evidently a mistake. Such a plan of procedure would open the flood gates for innumerable innovations. On this principle every kind of food and drink might be brought into the Lord's supper, and burning incense might be added to the worship. We must remember that law is inclusive and exclusive, including the things commanded and excluding all things else. This principle is too well known to need argument. Besides, in religious matters God alone has the right to guide men, and when man undertakes to add forms of service or worship not authorized by God's law, he assumes prerogatives which belong exclusively to God. He is presuming to take the office of God, one who has proper reverence for God so regards him.

by C. R. Nichol; Taken from The Beacon Electronic Edition

LEARN FROM JOB ABOUT ETERNITY

"If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my warfare would I wait, Till my release should come. Thou wouldest call, and I would answer thee: Thou wouldest have a desire to the work of thy hands." **(Job 14:14–15)**

"But as for me I know that my Redeemer liveth, And at last he will stand up upon the earth: And after my skin, even this body, is destroyed, Then without my flesh shall I see God; Whom I, even I, shall see, on my side, And mine eyes shall behold, and not as a stranger. My heart is consumed within me." **(Job 19:25–27)**

AND FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing." **(2 Timothy 4:7–8)**

We sing a hymn called, *Heavenly Will Surely Be Worth It All*. Truer words were never spoken. Job lived a life that went from surplus in every way God could bless to a life where Satan took it all away. Throughout that life he never renounced God. God restored the blessings Satan had destroyed even as Job repented in dust and ashes for his failure to understand God as he lived this life of suffering. The reason Job did not reject God was his desire of seeing Him after this life.

Jim Stauffer

Let us be reminded to pray for those we support who are preaching in other areas of this country and also of the world. Remember to pray for Kyle Bennett in Boston Ma., Matt Hodge in Marshfield, Mo. and Cleveland Reddinger in El Dorado, Ks. Overseas we need to remember, Wilfredo Pelino and Jonathan Sapitula in the Philippines as well as Moses Tivane in Mozambique.

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Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

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SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:

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LORD



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10