

PREPARING TO MEET THE JUDGE

EACH OF US WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF OURSELVES TO GOD

1. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ”; 2 Cor. 5:10-11. “We shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God. So then **each one of us shall give account of himself to God**”; Romans 14:10-12
2. This is not a verdict of guilt for sin; the believer’s works (not their sins) will be judged at the Judgment Seat (Bema) of Christ. Our sins were already judged at Calvary; Rom. 8:1; 1 John 1:9
3. The Judgment Seat of Christ will take place after death; Heb. 9:27, “in the air” following the first resurrection; the dead in Christ will rise first; 1 Thess. 4:14-18
4. There will be 1,000 years between the Judgment Seat of Christ (where only the saved will appear) and the Great White Throne Judgment (where the unsaved will appear); Rev. 20:11
5. Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment; Matt. 12:36; **every “manager” will give an account of his stewardship**; Luke 16:1-12
6. The books will be opened and we will be judged according to the things which are written in the books, according to our deeds; Rev. 20:12, 15; 11:18
7. Jesus is at the door; Rev. 3:20, He sees our condition and judges without partiality; Rom. 2:11

OUR SECRET LIFE WILL BE REVEALED

1. The Lord knows the secrets of every heart; Psalm 44:21; Hebrews 4:12
2. The Lord sees every image, abomination and idol that man “sets up in secret”; Deut. 27:15; Ezekiel 8:6-18; our **secret sins are seen in the light of His presence**; Psalm 90:8
3. The day comes when God will judge the secrets of men through Jesus Christ; Romans 2:16
4. God knows our secret thoughts and plans; (What are you “storing up” for the future, and whose “barn” are you preoccupied with? Yours or His?); Luke 12:16-21; 3:17; Matt. 13:30
5. “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with **every secret thing**, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”; Ecclesiastes 12:14
6. **God sees when we give and pray in secret** and He will reward us openly; Matthew 6:1-6
7. The fear of the Lord comes, and the **secrets of men’s hearts are disclosed** when the gifts of the Spirit are in operation; 1 Corinthians 14:25

A DAY OF RECKONING IS COMING

1. Religion measures the “exterior”, the outward observances; Matt. 23:25-28; Jesus measures the “interior”, the internal spiritual condition of us, His “temple”; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Ezekiel 41:3-4
2. Knowing what is coming, we aspire to holy conduct and godly living; 2 Peter 3:9-14
3. **To whom much is given, much will be required**; Luke 12:48
4. Jesus will come in the glory of His Father with His angels. **He will recompense every man according to his deeds**; Matthew 16:27; He searches the heart and tests the mind; Jer. 17:10
5. Even blessings can become a distraction. Beware of the “legitimate excuses” that people give; be careful to “count the cost” of being the Lord’s disciple; Luke 9:57-62; 14:16-33
6. God will not be mocked; **whatever a man sows, that will he also reap**; Galatians 6:7
7. There are multitudes in the valley of decision; Joel 3:13-14. According to Luke 3:17 Jesus will
 - a. thoroughly clear and cleanse His “threshing floor” (where farmers separate grain from chaff)
 - b. gather the wheat (grain) and store it in His barn (heavenly storage place)
 - c. burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire

OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE

1. “For **the LORD thy God is a consuming fire**, even a jealous God”; Deuteronomy 4:24. By fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh; Isaiah 66:16
2. “The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with **the DEVOURING FIRE**? Who among us shall dwell with **EVERLASTING BURNINGS**? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly”; Isaiah 33:14-15
3. Jesus said “I am come to send fire on the earth”; Luke 12:49, and “everyone shall be salted with fire and every sacrifice must be salted with salt”; Mark 9:49. We present ourselves as “living sacrifices”; biblical sacrifices were always offered with fire; Romans 12:1
4. We must be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire; Luke 3:16. God’s fire applied to His priesthood is intended to refine and purify; our faith must be tried and purified like gold; Malachi 3:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:20-21. A baptism of “fiery trials”; 1 Pet. 4:12, burns away the spirit of the world and that which has “bound us”; Daniel 3:19-27
5. His eyes are like “flames of fire” and His feet are “glowing” as in a furnace; Rev. 1:14-15. The Judge sees all and has triumphed over all! The application of His fire is intended to bring forth a consecrated people who will exhibit His glory: the expression, manifestation, personification of Himself, (as well as cleansing that comes by the washing of water with the word); Eph. 5:26-27
6. God’s word tells us that at His return, **Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in FLAMING FIRE**; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8
7. “For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and **the fury of a fire** which will consume the adversaries”; Heb. 10:26-27

FACTORS THAT WILL DETERMINE REWARDS OR LOSS OF REWARDS

1. God gives every man a conscience; Romans 2:12, 14-16, and every man’s **character, thoughts and motives** will be revealed; Hebrews 4:12-13; 2 Cor. 10:5
2. Our wisdom and **behavior** (godly or not) will be evident to all; Titus 2:7-8; James 3:13-18
3. We each have an assignment and responsibility in fulfilling the Great Commission; **we must be faithful to walk in a manner worthy of our calling**; Ephesians 4:1-4. Those who lead and teach faithfully will be rewarded, but will incur a stricter judgment; James 3:1
4. Our **obedience and personal devotion to Christ** is of the utmost importance; Mark 12:30. Obedience is better than sacrifice; 1 Samuel 15:22, and faithful “slaves” are conducting business until He returns; Luke 19:12-26. We “work out” our salvation with fear and trembling; Phil. 2:12
5. **Diligence**: the hand of the diligent will bear rule; Proverbs 12:24. We must not procrastinate, be lazy or slothful. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him; Hebrews 11:6
6. A “prize” awaits those who qualify; Philippians 3:14. God’s people must stay focused as they run the race, in order to receive an “incorruptible crown”; 1 Cor. 9:24-27. He wants us to “finish well”; Ecclesiastes 7:8. He who overcomes shall inherit all things; Rev. 21:7
7. **The works that survive the fire are the deeds for which believers are rewarded**: “Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire”; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

