

Preparing to Reign

Rev 17:5-22

Lehman Strauss

It is sad but true, that all saints will not be ready to meet Christ when he comes for his church. Some will be ashamed before him at his coming.

So while God has been preparing the earth for the reign of the saints, he must also prepare the saints to be presented to a prepared earth.

1 John 2:28

28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, **and not be ashamed before him at his coming.**

Eph 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Dr. M. R. Dehaan

says, In Ephesians 5:26 we are told that Christ will sanctify and cleanse his church by the washing of water by the word. The two words used, sanctify and cleanse are not the same in the greek. The word translated cleanse in the verse is Katharizo from which our English word cathartic is derived, God uses two methods of making us clean. One is by sanctifying, by the word, and if we refuse this method, he will give us a cathartic, but he will have us clean. How much better to take the gentle course now than to wait until the judgment seat of Christ and be purged by fire!!!!!!

1 Cor 3:13-15

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

This preparation is called the JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST or BEMA JUDGMENT

Rom 14:10-12

10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? **for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 **So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

2 Cor 5:9-10

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ;** that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

This word was taken from Isthmian games where the contestants would compete for the prize under the careful scrutiny of judges who would make sure that every rule of the contest was obeyed (cf. 2 Tim. 2:5). The victor of a given event who participated according to the rules was led by the judge to the platform called the *Bema*. There the laurel wreath was placed on his head as a symbol of victory (cf. 1 Cor. 9:24-25)

We must Give Account in two Specific Areas

1. Our Words

Matt 12:36

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

2. Our Works

1 Cor 3:9-15

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

I) Our Focus (Is it the will of God)

A. Of our Attention

Matt 6:33

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 2:49

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

John 9:4

4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

B.

Of our Affection

Col 3:1-2

3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

II) Our Faithfulness

A. As a Steward (Our Children, Our Cash, Our Call)

1 Cor 4:1-5

4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

B. As a Servant

1 Peter 4:10

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

C. As a Soulwinner

Matt 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Life Group Questions

1. In Matthew 12:36 we learn that we will give account for every “Idle” word, the word idle means useless, with this in mind what should we learn from this verse?

Eph 4:29

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

2. How would our relationships change if we could master this commandment and what steps can we take to master it?
3. Can we say that the focus of our attention daily is the will of God for our lives for that day?
4. What does Matthew 6:10 say that we should ask of God daily?
5. How intent are we in doing the will of God in our lives?, enough to not be satisfied till we find it and do it? (Be Honest)
6. How much does our affection play into our attention, with the answer to that question what does that say about where our hearts are? Would they be on Godly things or worldly things?
7. God is not asking for ability but availability, faithfulness is one thing everyone can accomplish; we have no excuse, so how are we doing?
8. Read Proverbs 29:19 and answer this question “Can God depend on you?”
9. How has your faithfulness been lately in the area of your responsibility?

One day do you want to hear?

Matt 25:23

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.