

There are only slight additions from last week's notes but important ones. It is my desire and God's will that each of us experience abundance in this life and a rich inheritance in the world to come. Therefore, we study to learn the truth of the Word of God and not the opinions of men.

What Are You Going to Do About the Judgment? Part 2

- I. We have been learning what it means to be saved. Acknowledging Jesus as Lord Messiah!
- A. We see he tells **the entire Gospel in Matt 16** beginning at vs 13
Matthew 16:13–23 (NKJV) — 13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” 14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
- 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”**
- 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. 21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” 23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”**
- B. Then he goes on to say
Matthew 16:24 (NKJV) — 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

1. To be committed to him a man must submit all to his service!
Nothing is to be before him!
2. Then he tells them of the judgement where he is to be the judge of all mankind.
3. Salvation is in the recognition of him as Lord. Pursuit of any other goals in life will mean forfeiture of a man's soul.
4. He is the only way a man can make it out of this world and live to tell about it!

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY A MAN CAN MAKE IT OUT OF THIS WORLD AND LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT!

27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

SALVATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE BLESSINGS GOD HAS IN STORE FOR FAITHFUL BELIEVERS

- C. John 10:10 Abundance here and abundance there after!
- D. Jesus came to save man from himself and to provide a righteous substitute for man to exist with abundant blessings from a holy God!
- E. James 2:17,24
 1. Salvation is by faith but abundance and increase that remains is by faith that works!
 - a. The thief on the cross

II. The Bible Speaks of Eternal Rewards/ and Punishments. **WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?**

- A. Why I do what I do - The responsibility to share the truth
Ezekiel 3:16–21 (NKJV) — 16 Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 17 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me:

18 When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

20 “Again, when a righteous *man* turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. 21 Nevertheless if you warn

the righteous *man* that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul.”

- B. There is a certain judgement
John 5:28–29 (NKJV) — 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

2 Thessalonians 1:6–10 (NKJV) — 6 since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV) — 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

AS CERTAIN AS THERE IS DEATH THERE IS A JUDGMENT!

Revelation 22:12 (NKJV) — 12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

1. The sinner will account for his sin. He will be punished for it.
2. The Christian has great opportunity to receive rewards for his works.
 - a. That is, if he does any. He may just consider himself happy to be saved.

SALVATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE BLESSINGS GOD HAS IN STORE FOR FAITHFUL BELIEVERS

- b. What does he say?
Psalm 34:10 (NKJV) — 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good *thing*.

Hebrews 10:35 (NKJV) — 35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

Hebrews 10:36–39 (NKJV) — 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 “*For yet a little while,*

And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

- C. Each day is our opportunity to store up for ourselves treasures in heaven.
1. **Do we really think they're worth it?** If we do, we will value each day and seek to please God in some way every day.
 2. At the end of each day we will have exchanged a day of our life for it. Was it worth it?

DID YOU MAKE A GOOD EXCHANGE FOR THE LIFE YOU GAVE UP YESTERDAY?

AT THE END OF THIS DAY WILL YOU HAVE STORED UP ANY TREASURES IN HEAVEN FOR YOURSELF?

3. Even if you don't get all the blessings here in this world, you are sure to receive them in eternity. Remember Lazarus?
Luke 16:25 (NKJV) — 25 But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.

Romans 12:19 (NKJV) — 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

- D. In many places, the Bible speaks of a judgment where those who respect the Lord will receive an eternal reward and those who reject the Lord will receive eternal condemnation.

Those Who Respect The Lord Will Receive An Eternal Reward They Can Not Lose

Those Who Reject The Lord Will Receive Eternal Condemnation They Can Not Change

Daniel 12:2–3 (NKJV) — 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

E. The judgment will be based upon the works an individual does in his life.
THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR SINFUL WORKS TO DETERMINE THEIR DEGREE OF PUNISHMENT

THOSE WITH CHRIST WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR RIGHTEOUS WORKS TO DETERMINE THEIR MEASURE OF REWARD

- a. The Christian's sinful works were already accounted for by Christ on the cross.
- b. Those who are without Christ will have no one to account for their sins and they will stand before God to account for themselves.
 - (1) Jesus paid the price for all men sins and all men have to do is to believe and accept him as their Lord and Savior.
Acts 16:31 (NKJV) — 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."
 - (2) All men have a chance now to be saved
Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV) — 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 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."
 - (3) There is but one way
Hebrews 2:3 (NKJV) — 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

F. In **Matthew 24** speaks of Jesus coming again, then **Matthew 25** speaks of the judgment (*Read this for yourself*).

1. Parable of the 10 virgins –

- a. five were wise giving consideration to the future and when the bridegroom would come
- b. five were foolish giving no consideration to the future when the bridegroom would come
- c. this is to encourage us to consider when Jesus will come again and prepare for it
- d. to the foolish he said
**Matthew 25:10 (NKJV) — 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.
 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'
 13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.**
- e. The oil represents the Holy Spirit that they had in their vessels.

Matthew 25:4 (NKJV) — 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

- (1) Are you submissive to the Holy Spirit?
- (2) Are you following the leading of the Holy Spirit to complete the mission God has called you to?
- (3) Are you exhibiting wisdom with the gifts God has given you?

f. The wise virgins got to spend eternity with the bridegroom. **The foolish ones were locked out!**

- (1) Don't be foolish and not prepare for eternity!
- (2) Recognize that the foolish burdens were pledged to marry the bridegroom but because of their foolish actions he rejected them.
 - (a) this means that there are many people who are pledged to have eternal life but their foolish careless attitudes in regard to Christ commands they reveal they never were committed to him

NOT ALL WHO SAY THEY ARE SAVED REALLY ARE SOME JUST THINK THEY ARE

A TREE IS KNOWN BY THE FRUIT IT BEARS

Matthew 3:8–10 (NKJV) — 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

John 15:1–2 (NKJV) — 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

- g. The virgins did not consider the eternal consequences of their failure to plan for the future
- h. Are you planning for your eternity?

THE BEST INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE IN LIFE IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

2. Parable of the talents

Matthew 25:14–19 (NKJV) — 14 "For *the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own*

servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

- a. They were given according to their ability. Meaning you have everything you need to serve the Lord now.
- b. As you mature, God will work in you to accomplish the purpose he has called you to.
- c. He is simply looking for a willing vessel. He will do the work!
- d. Remember all the Scriptures about the battle is not ours?

Philippians 2:12–16 (NKJV) — 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

- (1) See, Paul's focus is on the return of the Lord.
- e. The first two gave consideration to what the master wanted. The last live his life the way he wanted to without regard for his eternity.

Matthew 25:24–28 (NKJV) — 24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have *what is yours*.’

26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- f. It appears there are eternal consequences for failure to do your best for the kingdom of God now in this life. **Do you really believe this? What are you doing about it?**
- (1) What have you done with the days that God has given you to serve him?
 - (2) What have you done within the last week to give glory to God?

GOD GAVE EVERYONE A TALENT IS YOURS HIDDEN ALSO?

- (3) Perhaps you have a good excuse also?
- (4) Have you used the talent that God has given you for his kingdom or have you used your talents just to make a living?

NOT ALL WHO SAY THEY ARE SAVED REALLY ARE SOME JUST THINK THEY ARE

A TREE IS KNOWN BY THE FRUIT IT BEARS

- g. The judgment will prove who is saved and who is not. If a person is truly saved they will be doing works of righteousness!
- h. Remember, Jesus said you cannot call him Lord if you do not do what he says do!
Luke 6:46 (NKJV) — 46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

The next few words of Jesus in Matt 25 reveal that those who are truly saved in the judgment will have works of righteousness to prove their confession of Jesus as their Lord as truth.

3. **The Sheep And The Goats**
Matthew 25:31–33 (NKJV) — 31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:34 (NKJV) — 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:37–40 (NKJV) — 37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’

- a. Notice, rewards were given for good works!
- b. Then notice what happens for those did not do good works!

Matthew 25:41 (NKJV) — 41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:44–46 (NKJV) — 44 “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’ 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

- G. What we are saying in each case God gives rewards for those who do good works.

GOOD WORKS ARE NOT NECESSARY FOR SALVATION, BUT THEY ARE NECESSARY FOR REWARDS IN HEAVEN

- H. If a person does not do good works, there is a question if they are a Christian indeed because a tree is known by the fruit it bears.

- III. Now, according to the word, if any man is going to please God and receive eternal rewards...

Matthew 16:24 (NKJV) — 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

**Eternal Rewards:
Are They Really Worth The Trouble?**

- IV. Do you really believe there are rewards for the righteous? If you do, you need to start storing up treasures in heaven!
- A. Would a loving God really make distinction between people?
1. God makes a distinction because he is a righteous God.
 - a. the wicked must be punished
 - b. the righteous must be rewarded
- B. The rewards are sometime out in the future. Perhaps we should not think about them?
1. The example of Esau
Genesis 25:29–34 (NKJV) — 29 Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. 30 And Esau said to Jacob, “Please feed me with that same red *stew*, for I *am* weary.” Therefore his name was called Edom. 31 But Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright as of this day.” 32 And Esau said, “Look, I *am* about to die; so what *is* this birthright to me?” 33 Then Jacob said, “Swear to me as of this day.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised *his* birthright.
 2. As a result of him not looking towards his future, this is what God said.
Malachi 1:3 (NKJV) — 3 But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness.”
- C. We are encouraged to keep the future rewards in mind
Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) — 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- D. Run this race aggressively!
1 Corinthians 9:24–25 (NKJV) — 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. 25 And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*.

V. There is no condemnation for Christians but there are rewards given for good works to be ours for eternity!

A. Are the rewards of God really worth it? Let's look at some of them.

Matthew 5:10 (NKJV) — 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:11–12 (NKJV) — 11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 10:41–42 (NKJV) — 41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”
Matthew 16:27 (NKJV) — 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

1 Corinthians 3:9–15 (NKJV) — 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

**IF A CHRISTIAN SINS AND DOES NOT REPENT, GOD WON'T GET HIM
BUT GOD WON'T GIVE HIM EITHER!**

Colossians 3:23–25 (NKJV) — 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Hebrews 11:24–26 (NKJV) — 24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing

rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

B. Jesus says he is Lord and he expects us to keep his commandments.

1. Be careful and with your words and do not condemn others.

Matthew 12:36 (NKJV) — 36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Romans 2:1–11 (NKJV) — 1 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. 3 And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? 5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who “*will render to each one according to his deeds*”: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.