

**A VERY UNCOMFORTABLE REALITY**  
**The Great Exchange!**

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

**Matthew 16:24–27 (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.****

***FOR WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO EXCHANGE YOUR SOUL,  
RICHES AND PLEASURES ON EARTH OR  
A RICH INHERITANCE IN HEAVEN?***

***These are truly times that try men’s souls! Thomas Paine***

***The Great Exchange!***

I. A very uncomfortable reality, death is coming to all of us! Then after that Judgement by God!

**A VERY UNCOMFORTABLE REALITY – WE WILL ALL DIE!**

**THEN,**

**THE WAY WE LIVED WILL BE JUDGED BY JESUS!**

- A. We all need to recognize that one day we will die. It is amazing how much we plan for life but fail to plan for death.
  - 1. We plan for education, how to get a job, who were going to marry, what we're going to get at the grocery store, what kind of clothes were going to wear, what we're going to do today, we make so many plans but we must start to recognize we need to plan for our death!
  - 2. We all have an appointment with death.
  - 3. It doesn't matter whether you're rich or poor, black or white, famous or unknown we will all die.

4. Take a look around. Many who were with us a few short years ago are now dead.
  - a. Where is Michael Jackson? **Dead!**
  - b. Where is Whitney Houston? **Dead!**
  - c. Tupac Shakur? **Dead!**
  - d. Where is Prince, **Dead!** Mohamed Ali, **Dead!** Natalie Cole, **Dead!** BB King, **Dead!**
  - e. Where is Red Foxx, **Dead!**
  - f. Where is Spock, Leonard Nimoy, **Dead!**
5. There are more folks dead than those alive today in all the earth.

### **DEATH IS CERTAIN**

#### **PREPARE FOR IT!**

- B. Every human being will die ..... and then undergo a judgment regarding the works that they have done in this life. No one escapes his judgment.
- C. People who don't study the Bible like to believe there will not be a judgment;
  1. They like to believe that there are no consequences to their actions.
  2. They like to believe that they can do anything they like to do.
  3. But, they live in a fantasy world.
  4. The Bible also said we would all die and that is true.
- D. We should all better remember that God is not a man that he should lie. He told Adam and Eve if they did not obey him they would die and death came into the world because of them.
- E. Just like death came into the world because of one man sin, freedom from death also came through one man.

### **SALVATION IS FREE**

#### **REWARDS IN HEAVEN COME AT A COST**

- F. The Bible says  
**Romans 5:17 (NKJV) — 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)**  
**18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.**

1. We rejoice at these words and give God the glory for his grace that has given us all eternal life.
- G. Those that do read the Bible rejoice at the following statements.  
**John 3:16 (NKJV) — 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

**John 11:25–26 (NKJV) — 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**

1. We love those words because from those we, who know Jesus, recognize we don't have to fear death but we must all recognize we are appointed to die but we are also appointed to stand judgment.
  2. What did the Scriptures say  
**Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV) — 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment**
- H. What is the pericope preceding this passage?  
**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.**
- I. For those of us that do read, the Bible we recognize that Jesus, who saved us all, will judge the unrighteous, but we don't like to focus on the fact God will judge the righteous also.
- J. There are going to be two judgments. Judgment for the
1. The Unrighteous and
  2. The Righteous - All Christians
- K. Look at what Jesus said:  
**Matthew 16:24–27 (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.**

**YOU WILL EXCHANGE YOUR LIFE FOR RICHES OF THIS WORLD  
OR YOU WILL EXCHANGE YOUR LIFE FOR RICHES IN HEAVEN**

1. Several things we take note of if anyone is going to come after Christ -- that is follow behind him.
  - a. 24 - denying self-versus doing for self
  - b. 25 - saving life - versus losing life
  - c. 26 - gaining the world - versus saving the soul
  - d. 27 - A reward for doing these things
- II. Jesus will be the judge! How will he judge? What did he say about it? Look what he said to his disciples. Those who believed on him already. This should let us know that he has a plan for our lives once we have accepted him.

**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.**

- A. Three things a person must do if he desires to come after him. What are they?
  1. deny himself
  2. take up his cross/ **LUKE 9:21** “daily”
  3. follow him

- B. Notice, to come after him. What does this mean?

**John 14:1–7 (NKJV) — 1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; **that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.”** 5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”**

1. He is speaking of being in his presence. To follow him and to experience a closer relationship with him those three things must be done.

C. **WE MUST DENY OURSELVES!** Disown self, disregard self, forsake self, renounce self, reject self, refuse self, restrain self, subdue self.

1. This is to be contrast with doing for ourselves versus depriving ourselves.
2. Deny
  - a. our pride
  - b. our jealousy
  - c. our unforgiveness
  - d. our comfort
  - e. your ambition
  - f. your pleasures
3. too many of us are caught up in things for our comfort and are not willing to make commitments to discipline ourselves for the kingdom of God
4. too many want to achieve position and power and status rather than serve
5. we must learn to say no to our behaviors are things that are not like Christ.
6. We spend a lot of time trying to do things ourselves taking care off our bodies but do we spend an equal amount of time trying to do for our eternal souls?
  - a. Don't spend so much time focusing on your physical body. It is not you!
7. Think of baby SJ. What is more important the clothes a baby wears or the baby himself?

D. **TAKE UP OUR CROSS - Service**

1. People in Jesus' day knew what it meant to "take up" a cross. They saw scores of criminals bear the cross to the place where they were to be executed, and they witnessed scores of crucifixions, some even by the side of the roads that led in and out of the cities.
2. this means saying yes to the things that are difficult for us but are the will of God for us.
3. What are the gifts of God he has given that you are not using? What is your excuse for not serving?
4. You are saying you are willing to die to yourself to be with him

5. Think of how Jesus felt about the cross. To go to it was the will of God even though it was difficult for him
6. Jesus was on the cross alone. This will mean sometimes you will have to stand alone. A cross is a lonely place.
  - a. Your cross may not be the cross of somebody else.
  - b. You may have to die on the cross he has called you to but remember this he who loses his life for his sake will find it!

**E. WE MUST FOLLOW HIM – worship**

1. this means he must be Lord of and in our life. **We are to have no idols**
  - a. We are to be his disciples. His students. ***Study to be shown a workman, servant, approved to God.***
  - b. Walk after him not things of this world
    - (1) Religion
    - (2) Hobbies
    - (3) Race
    - (4) political parties
    - (5) profession
    - (6) education
    - (7) business
    - (8) social organizations
    - (9) pleasure
    - (10) health
    - (11) sports
2. we are to be imitators of his life. What did Christ do? That is the way we have to be. We should seek to be like him!
3. it does not matter how much we have to go through. He is the example of what we must be like.
4. We must have zeal for God. He is looking to see if we are fully committed to him!
5. Have we shown love to our brothers and sisters like Christ said?
6. How much like Christ are we? Are we willing to sacrifice of ourselves so that somebody else might be blessed?
7. Jesus left heaven so that we might have life. Are we willing to do things for others even if it means we are inconvenienced?
8. when Christ looks at your life will you have done things for the furtherance of his kingdom or will you have looked out more for yourself?

- F. Knowing that there is a judgment how should we live our lives?  
What does the Scripture say?

**Ecclesiastes 12:9–14 (NIV84) —13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.**

**Daniel 12:2 (NIV84) — 2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.**

1. We can live our lives the way we want to live them. God has given us the freedom of choice. We can ignore him or we can serve him. God will still judge our actions.