



1 Thessalonians 4:13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

For most people the thought of death brings on much fear. This should not be so for the Christian. The scripture tells us that we should not grieve in the same degree as the lost because we have a hope they do not have. In this chapter we will discover what that hope is. What does the Bible have to say about life after death?

In this chapter we will learn

- I. What happens when we die
- II. The Judgment seat of Christ
- III. When does eternity begin?

I. What happens when we die?

A. Two things that all men are going to face is &_____

Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

1. When we die our spirit separates from our body and is ______with the Lord. We are going to find ourselves at the Judgment seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

2. Death, the Second Coming of Christ, the Judgment and Eternity are all things people fear but these future events bring joy to the mature Christian. Christians who know what God has promised to His children.

3. If you had died apart from Christ you would have been_______.

John 5:28, 29

28. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

4. Christians don't have to fear any of this because we have a _____ in Jesus

B. Lamb's book of Life:

This hope we have has become a sure thing because of what Jesus has accomplished. We have overcome and our names are written in the book of life.

> **Revelation 3:5** He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

1. The practice of our ______insures that we will overcome. It is by:

(a) The Blood of the lamb

(b)The word of our testimony

(c)Putting God's will before our own even to the death

Revelation 12:11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

2. We have a new home and a new residential place of dwelling.

The Bible says our citizen ship is not here on earth, so we need not get tangled with things on earth but set our minds on things above. (*Col 3:1,2 & 2Tim 2 3,4*)

3. Before we were separated from God without mercy, now we have received mercy through Jesus. We are a royal priesthood that belongs to God!

Lam 3:22,24

22. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

24. The Lord is my portion, says my soul; therefore, will I hope in him.

1 Peter 2:9, 10

9. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

II. The Judgment Seat of Christ

All _______ will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the things done in the body. When you stand before the judgment seat of Christ, your works will be tried by fire. If your motives were less than pure, your work will be consumed by fire. If your motives were pure it will be like gold, silver, and precious stones and simply be refined. Anything we do must be done for eternal value. Anything we do that is temporary and earthly will be consumed.

2 Corinthians 5 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.

1 Corinthians 3:13. 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.

A. When you stand before Jesus Christ at the Judgment seat of Christ your works will be judged and ______. So then, what works will receive reward? Christians will be rewarded for ______ building the kingdom by ______ people into Christ's salvation.

1 Peter 5:2-4

2. Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

3. not lording it over those entrusted to you but being examples to the flock.

4. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Revelation 2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

B. This could not refer to unsaved people, for the unsaved people have no place in heaven and are separated from God forever. *Matt 25*

1 Corinthians 3 14, 15. 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.

2 Corinthians 5:4 – We are those whose mortality may be swallowed up by life.

C. We are judged by "good or bad" works, this is not referring to righteousness or sin. This is referring to our labor in the kingdom of God, being acceptable or unacceptable in the sight of Christ.

I Samuel 16:9 – For the Lord does not look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

III. When Does Eternity begin?

1. What we are doing now will affect our standing then.

1 Corinthians 6:2,3

2. Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

3. Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Knowing we are to be at the Judgment seat of Christ allows us to understand that we are already eternal beings destined to spend that eternity either in union with God and all that is good or in perpetual torment with Satan & his angels. The current words and actions of our lives are already having an eternal effect. We have begun. Our life on earth runs parallel to eternity. There will come a time when death will allow us to step out of the limits of time into the spiritual realm. However, we will not be starting over but continuing in a new dimension and glorified body with the life we began here.

A. What we do now can have an eternal effect on the destiny of others. We must not cause others to fall. To answer Cain's question, Yes! we <u>are</u> our brother's keeper. What you do is my business. What I do is your business.

Matthew 18

6. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

7. "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

B. We have a charge to walk in Christ like maturity and not only be keepers of our own vessel but to be caretakers of others as much as we are able without violating their right to make their own choices.

Jude 22,23

22. Be merciful to those who doubt;

23. snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear--hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

James 5:19, 20

19. My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,

20. remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Exercise: Read 1 Cor 8:5-13; 1Cor 10:23-33

- 1. How do these passages relate to you today?
- 2. What specific areas can you use these precepts in your own walk?

THIS WEEK's BIBLE READING: Jonah

Use the **Bible Study tool** as you read. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

Answers:

- Pg.1 death, judgement
- Pg.2 consumed, sure, thing
- Pg.3 faith
- Pg.4 Christians
- Pg.5 manifest, work, bringing