***Prophecy Special - 9/11 - The Final Solution of God, No. 11

PS11***

We continue now in our study of Christians related to the current events that are taking place in American society, and our subject is the final solution of God. This is segment number 11.

**God's Sovereignty in Prophecy**

It is always important to remember one fundamental fact about God, and that is that He is sovereign. Nobody tells him what to do. Nobody talks Him out of what he ought to do. God does as He chooses. He is restrained only by His holy character of absolute righteousness. That is a simple principle, but many Christians blind themselves to it. Even in their carnality, they really think that they have a greater power over what they are doing than the fact that it is God Himself who is sovereign. That means he moves all the pieces on the chess table. He moves all the checkers on the checker board. Nobody operates outside of His control and direction.

Because God alone decrees the events of human history, He is able to predict those future events precisely. He has ordained them, and the inevitability of their fulfillment is beyond question. Isaiah pointed this out centuries ago. Isaiah 46:8-10: "Remember this and be assured. Recall it to mind, you transgressors. Remember the former things long past. For I am God and there is no other. I am God. There is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all my good pleasure.'"

It is only the madness of the sin nature, even in Christians, who think that they can oppose the will of God; the plan of God; the instruction of the principles of the Word of God, and that they can tell this God that He will not fulfill His purposes. He will, and He does. The predictions of God recorded in Scripture of events hundreds of years in the future have in the past always come about in exact detail. This is not just general fulfillment like some Nostradamus prediction in general. The fulfillments of biblical prophecy have always come about in very specific detail.

The current terrorism in the United States is a preview of the details of the book of Revelation in the form of the seal judgments, the trumpet judgments, and the bowl judgments that we went over in detail last time. These things are predictions. What we are seeing in the United States is the rapid movement toward the fulfillment of that tribulation divine judgment.

These prophetic Scriptures all confirm the Bible to be a book written by men under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit, and therefore they are inerrant. No one has yet been able to find a mistake in the Bible. The Bible was written by 40 different writers over a 1,500-year timespan. Some of these men never even saw each other's books. Yet, there are no contradictions; no geographic mistakes; no scientific errors; and, no concepts that are unbecoming of God.

It is also clear that man could not have written this book. It is the Word of God. Now, if it's that important, and if this Bible is really the Word from God containing His thinking, and containing it without error, this becomes a pretty important book. It would seem that this has to be the focus of the human race and certainly the focus of Christian churches. The Bible is written in words which are clearly understood because those words mean what they say. They do not have symbolic and hidden meaning. Early in Christian history, when that idea arose through one of the early church fathers that the words of Scripture have hidden special meanings, that brought great destruction to the whole concept of knowing what God thinks. From then on, it was downhill. It was a tremendous achievement of Satan to convince people that the words of Scripture did not mean what they say. It was even worse for them to think that they did not apply to them in their literal meanings.

Therefore, since the Bible is His word; it His mind; it is so important; and, it is so perfect, God has ordained that the church age believers should not be ignorant of the mind of God as recorded in Scripture, including Bible prophecy. Just talk to some of your Christian friends who go to the usual run-of-the-mill church down the street. Ask them what they know about prophetic events. Ask them what they understand about what happened concerning terrorism on 9/11, and the various places of this country, and how that relates to future events that are immediately on the horizon. They don't even know what you're talking about.

But it's all a package of a sovereign God who's moving on track, and the speed is picking up. Therefore, Christians have a right, and should be taught the principles of doctrine and where history is going by the decrees of God. It is a Christian's right to know what God is doing. That Christian can be ignorant, but he may also choose to be informed. He may choose to be ignorant by not being in the instruction of the services. Or he may be here with negative volition in his mind; he blanks out; and, he goes spiritually crazy. It can go either way.

**Learning the Word**

Nevertheless, God the Father says, "I'm going to give you a chance." So He has ordained and provided, in the time in which we live, the institution of the local church with a pastor-teacher elder as the church age teacher, and the local church as a learning and training center so that you may know the mind of God. If that local church and that pastor-teacher fails his job, pity that congregation. They will be the congregation that has the largest campus facility. I grant you that. They will be the congregation that has the most money. I grant you that. They will be the congregation that has programs and activities. And they will be the congregation that has played upon the emotions of the people. It will be the congregation where people's opinions are on an equal level with the opinions of God and Scripture.

That's very popular. That's the technique of Satan. But the instruction of the Word of God is what the Christian has a right to. That takes in-depth study, and it takes a pastor-teacher who's not up there to be some public star, a TV personality, or a Hollywood biggie who wants everyone to praise him and to be impressed with him. He is to be interested in having people get their eyes on the Lord so they don't botch up their lives and their eternal welfare.

The biblical method of instruction in the local church is very clear. It is amazing what a big secret this is. People attend churches that if they knew just two Scriptures, they would walk out and never go back again. With God, it's like with the law. You may say, "Dear officer, I didn't know that this was a school zone, and I could only drive 20 miles an hour." Does that excuse you that you didn't know? No, it doesn't. You'll be fined for breaking the law, whether you knew it or not. That is the way under a structured society of law, and God is a structured person.

So woe to the people who don't know this, or who once knew it. That is the terrible thing. People who once knew this, and then held it in contempt and departed from the canopy of the divine protection of an expository teaching ministry, go downhill. I have dealt with hundreds of people. I've seen hundreds of people. I can tell you something true to this day. Of the people who have left Berean church mad with indignation because something in the Word of God countered their desire in lifestyle, I have never seen one single person not to break up. They go cuckoo in the head. They go bongos in the body. They break up in their social relationships. Sometimes they have everything in life that a person could ask for, but they don't have the one thing they need--a spiritual relationship with God.

That's why when Paul prays for God's blessing upon believers, does he first say, "I ask God to bless your body?" No. Does he ask God to bless your soul? No. Your personality? No. He says, "I ask God to bless your spirit. I want you to be in tune with God, the Father. I want you to be in temporal fellowship. I want your mind to be the mind of God. Then I ask for blessing upon your soul. Then I ask for blessing upon your body. It always goes in that order.

The apostle Paul wrote the book of 2 Timothy. It is the last book that he ever wrote. He is now coming to the last chapter of Scripture that he will ever write under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He is writing this to his young associate Timothy who is going to take over the work after Paul is beheaded and executed by Nero. In 2 Timothy 4:1-2, Paul says, "I solemnly charge you, Timothy, in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearance and His kingdom." Jesus is coming to judge this world. That's what the tribulation is all about. And the millennium is on the horizon.

The charge is in verse 2, and the charge to Timothy is a charge to all preachers who must lead people in their spiritual lives: "Preach the word." That means to explain doctrinal principles out of Scripture. "Be ready in season and out of season." Do you know what that means? Be ready when people go by after the service and say, "Very nice service, Dr. So-and-so," or when they walk out the other door with a very grim look on their face. "Timothy, don't let him bug you. You be faithful to me and let the yo-yos go their way. Preach the word. Be ready in season and out of season; reprove; rebuke; and, exhort with great patience and instruction."

Verse 3 says, "And you have to do this, Timothy, because there is a time coming when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wishing to have their ears tickled." These are stories and emotional games played upon a congregation. "They will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desire. They will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths." How many of your Christian friends do that? If they're not in an expository preaching church, you can bet that's what they've done. They can sing the same hymns and have the same smiles, but what a shock is in store for them at the Judgment Seat of Christ. You can believe it, or you can blow it off.

I also direct your attention to 1 Peter 5:1-4. Peter wrote this passage of Scripture directly to the pastor-teacher elder of the local church. That's what Timothy was. "So I exhort the elders, the pastor-teachers among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ." Peter says, "I was there. I saw the sufferings of Jesus. And I, as a preacher elder, speak to you as a preacher elder, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed. Shepherd the flock." Do you know what the word "shepherd" means. It means "to feed them." Feed the flock. Who's the flock? The local congregation. "Feed the flock of God among you. Exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but voluntarily (taking the job of caring for the sheep of God), according to the will of God. Not for sordid gain." He doesn't do this because they pay a big salary. They might even forget to ever raise your salary. But you still do the Word. "But you do it with eagerness, nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge." You've got an old sin nature, pastor-teacher elder, like everybody else. "But proving to be examples to the flock." This is like straightening out when you're wrong and putting things back on track.

Then verse 4 says, "If the pastor-teachers will do that, Timothy, you tell them that I have a special reward for them, and for them alone, in heaven. When the Chief Shepherd Jesus Christ appears, you pastor-teachers who do the job of feeding the flock and giving them a chance to have something more than husks of emotionalism to gnaw on, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. There will be stamped upon you in heaven the medal of honor of the crown of glory." Not too many preachers, I'm afraid, are going to earn a crown of glory in American society today.

Berean Memorial church, because we are obedient to this call, is an objective type of ministry. It is not a ministry which is subjective. It is not a ministry where the preacher tells you what he thinks and what he feels. It is a ministry, as Scripture calls for, of explaining the word. What's important is what God thinks and what He feels about things. So the ministry of Berean Church is an objective ministry. That means it's expository. It's explaining Scripture and explaining what God thinks, not what the preacher thinks. I find that Christians sometimes can get themselves mixed up as to whom they're listening to. They often they mix up the expository preaching with the opinions of the preacher.

Here at Berean, the Word of God is explained based upon the original Greek and Hebrew languages in which the Holy Spirit wrote the Old and the New Testaments. It is explained on the basis of the principle of literal interpretation. The words are clear. They're ordinary everyday words. And it is based upon the framework of rightly dividing the Word of Truth in its application to Judaism of the Old Testament and to Christianity in the New Testament. We have gathered today to worship on Sunday. It is the Lord's Day. The reason we do that is because that is the resurrection day, which is commemorated. It is the special day of Christianity. The folks a block down the road from us had the cars all over the place yesterday because they are Seventh Day Adventists. Their preacher hasn't caught on yet that Judaism seventh-day worship does not apply to Christianity any more than tithing or anything else from the Old Testament applies to Christianity. It is a whole different ballgame of grace.

Here at Berean, if you're going to explain Scriptures objectively on the basis of literal interpretation (the meaning of the words) and on the separation of the church from Israel, then you have to be able to have someone who can be objective and who has a background to know the difference. Here at Berean Church, we explain the revelation of God from Scripture as to what God thinks. They are not my opinions. For this reason, nobody ever gets mad at me. I continue to be one of the most likable people that one can find in any pulpit. They don't get mad at me from what they hear in the preaching. If they do, it's because they're illogical. Or worse yet, their minds have drifted off; they haven't been paying attention to whose words were being spoken; and, they're blaming me for what God said. If you have a problem with expository preaching, talk to the author. It's God. Don't blame me for what God does. I have enough problems of my own. You hold Him accountable for what you have heard.

I've actually had people who say that they disagree with the Bible. OK, you're honest: "I don't think the Bible is an errant book of God. It's just a book that men have written of their religious experiences. I don't believe that the Bible is true." They don't tell me that what I said was not what the Bible taught. But they don't believe the Bible is a book of authority from God. I've had people tell me that I'm misinterpreting passages, and that what it says is not the case. Well, we'll find out someday who's misinterpreting Scripture. I've had people that don't deny that what I have indicated as some principle of Scripture is really there. But, I've had some of them tell me that that principle does not apply to them because God told them it doesn't. Usually these are women. It happens: "That principle doesn't apply to me. God told me so." Of course, since I can't talk to God like they can, I can't find out if that's true or not. So I'm stuck with what they say. But whatever their reason is, I must say that they don't blame me because they understand that they haven't been listening to my ideas.

So please don't be dumb. In an expository preaching ministry, objectivity is the name of the game. Subjectivity will always carry you down into the devil's playground, and he'll shred you to pieces there. He'll bust up your physical life; he'll bust up your emotional life; and, you'll be running off to listen to a psychologist or a psychiatrist someplace to try to straighten up where the Holy Spirit is gnawing at your insides and saying, "Fix it. Make your confession. Accept the truth. And relax in the arms of Jesus Christ."

**The Bereans**

We need to know the proper way then to deal with expository preaching. What I'm getting at is that the book of the Revelation is one of the most unused books of the whole Bible. I've noticed many times in churches where they've had Bibles in the pews for some time, you'll find marks and scratches all over the Bible, but the cleanest pages are always in the book of the Revelation. The preacher never messes with that. This is because they can't take it literally, and they can't believe that these things are coming. If somebody gets up and preaches a sermon like you heard in the last session, explaining the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls, recoiling with the horror of the thoughts of what is going to happen to mankind, they blow it off. Well, how are you going to deal with literal expository preaching, especially if it messes up some personal favorite notion you have about God and what you're free to do? Well, you must do it in the same way as the original Bereans (whose name we bear here in this ministry) did it.

In Acts 17:10-11, Paul and Silas are at the city of Berea. They've been chased from one town to another. They've been high-tailing it out just ahead of the execution squads where people did not like what they were preaching. They were expository preachers, and the religious gentiles and the religious Jews did not like what they heard. One of Paul's associates, Demas, unfortunately, got tired of that and said, "I'm going to get myself a different lifestyle. I'm tired of running from city to city. I'd like to enjoy being friends with the world. We go to these wonderful big cities like Thessalonica and Corinth, great centers of culture and power. I only had this small little group of people, these biblical Christians, that I work with and I serve with and I live with it. I want to be out there and be with the big people of society."

So Paul said, "Demas has forsaken me." But that was not always true with all the people that Paul and Silas spoke to. They knew that those were the apple of God's eye. Those were the people that counted, not those who deserted. Acts 17:10: "And the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea." They'd been at Thessalonica where the riot had occurred because of their preaching of Jesus Christ as the Messiah Savior, and people were coming after them. The local authorities were coming after them. So the Christian leaders there, the pastor-teacher said, "Paul, Silas, you must get out of town. We better do it at night so we can get you out before they get their mitts on you." So they did.

"The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea (the next town up the road a few miles). When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews, as they always did." Paul was faithful to the principle that God had set down to the Jew first, then to the Gentile and all the world. So first they went to the synagogue and said, "We have something to tell you of a terrible thing that our fathers and our leaders did in Jerusalem to Jesus Christ, who is the Messiah Savior, whom they did not receive, who had come to set up the kingdom, and whom instead they crucified. But out of that crucifixion has come eternal life, for the death penalty has been paid for all of us." They're speaking this message to Jews in a synagogue.

Verse 11 has a very happy difference of receptivity: "These (these Jews in the synagogue at Berea) were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica" (the city they had just run away from). Why were they more noble? "For they received the Word of God with great eagerness." They listened: "Teach me more." Their eyes were wide open and their ears were open. "Then examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so." That's how you deal with expository preaching. If you don't like something the preacher says, then get the Bible out and read it for yourself. Compare Scripture with Scripture throughout the Scripture (the whole frame of reference), and satisfy yourself that that nut in the pulpit is wrong, and that what he has told you about some area of your life is not true, or at least tell yourself that you have a message from God that in your case it doesn't apply.

Verse 12 says, "Therefore (when they listened carefully; they paid attention to the preaching; and, they followed the Scriptures that Paul pointed out), many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men." The gentiles who were there listening also believed by the consultation of the Scriptures of the Jews.

That's the great message for people who have expository preaching. Pay attention, and then check it against the Word of God. If the expository preaching is being done in the right way, people will be there with their Bibles, and that expositor will explain to you from the Greek and Hebrew what is in this text. He will show you the connection between church age frame-of-reference doctrines. Then you can go yourself on your own. You do what you want. Jesus says, "But remember this. Since you chose to be there for the instruction, you will be held accountable in heaven for not responding to the Word of Truth that you have been taught. You cannot go home and blow it off.

**Samuel**

Samuel, the last of the judges in Israel's Old Testament theocracy, faced this problem of being blown off as the preacher of God. People came to the place where they wanted to be like the other nations around about them. Do you know any Christians who want to be like the other churches? Do you know any Christians who want to be like the other people in the community? The want to fit in and be accepted, maybe to find some kind of person they're looking for in their lives. Israel said, "Look at these nations. Look at their kings. Look at their ceremonies. Look at their grandeur. Look at their parades. We don't have any of that. All we have is this temple, and we slaughter animals. We look forward to God's promise to Abraham that He's going to send a Savior who'll be qualified to take our sins on Himself and pay for our sins so we can go to heaven. We have the humble life of depending upon God and being restricted by his moral codes."

So Samuel really went into a funky blue mood over the fact that the people insisted, "Give us a king." He said, "I've explained to you why that's bad; why that's not the best for you; and, what that king will do to you and your children." And they would not listen. So God comes. He speaks to His man, His faithful man, Samuel.

1 Samuel 8:4: "Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, 'Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways.'" Here's point number one: Samuel, you've become an old dude, and your sons are not going to follow in the steps of the prophet to lead us before God as you did, and to lead us as the head of the nation as you did. "Now appoint a king for us to judge like all the nations." That was their mistake. God was not going to quit leading them. After Samuel there would have been another person that would've been qualified. God always has his people in reserve. It is only the dummies in the spiritual life who think there is no one else.

In verse 6, God says to Samuel, "But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to judge us.' And Samuel pray to the Lord." When the congregation wants to go in the wrong direction spiritually, you make your case and then you pray.

In verse 7, the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you. For they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them." God was their king. They were a theocracy. But they didn't want Him. They wanted a human king, not God. And God says to Samuel, "Don't feel so bad about this. You have done your job of expository teaching. You've explained the principles. When they rejected those teachings, it was not you that they were rejecting, because those were not your ideas. It is God they're rejecting. Those were My ideas that you have given them."

Verse 8 says, "Like all the deeds which they have done since the day when I brought them up from Egypt even to this day, in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods, so they're doing to you also." Instead of being loyal to you as their spiritual teacher, they're loyal to all the other sin nature things that are in human societies and religious life: the other gods; the other attractions; and, the other things that have come into their lives as gods that substitute for the real God. "Samuel, it's not your fault. The rejection is the rejection of God.

So Samuel said, "Okay, I know what's going to happen," and sure enough it did--under a king. When they wouldn't listen to their expositor, they had to pay the price. When you teach people spiritual things, and they turn their backs on it, or they try to get even with you for doing it, just remember that it is not you that they're rebelling against. It is God. Take it to the Lord and leave it there.

It's good to remember a couple of sober warnings that we have in Scripture. The first one is from the apostle Paul. These are warnings about thumbing your nose at the pastor-teacher instruction when he is telling you from the Scriptures what is actually there. In 1 Corinthians 4:3-5, Corinth was a very carnal church. There were terrible sins going on in that congregation. As the apostle Paul was pointing these things out, and telling them to cease and desist, they would not. They instead started to beat up on the apostle Paul. They would go home from synagogue service and have roast preacher for lunch around the table--this dodo, this guy who doesn't know. But they were the dumb ones. They didn't realize that Paul was speaking the mind of God. So go to God.

In 1 Corinthians 4:2, Paul says that after observing that he is a steward of the mysteries of church age doctrine, there is one thing that is required as a steward, "That one be found trustworthy." If you know the Word of God, you're required to be trustworthy. Each of us is a steward of God. That's why we're a steward. Of all the things He's ever given us, they're His things entrusted to us.

Verse 3 says, "But to me, it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you." He says, "Okay, you Corinthian Christian, go ahead and sound off against me. Do you think that bothers me?" "Or by any human court, for that matter. In fact, I don't even examine myself in that respect." He says, "I don't know everything up and down about myself. I know I'm not perfect." "For I am conscious, however, of nothing against myself." "I don't know anything that's unconfessed or out of line." "Yet I am not by this acquitted. But the one who examines me is the Lord." "Just because I tell myself I'm all right, that doesn't mean that's OK. Just because you tell me you're all right, that does mean that's true. Just because you tell somebody else they're all right, that does mean it's true." Jesus Christ is the ultimate judge. When He says you're okay, then you're okay.

Verse 5: "Therefore, do not go on passing judgment before the time." Do you know what "the time" is? It's the Judgment Seat of Christ. Wait until the Lord comes. Do you know when the Lord comes? He comes at the rapture. Then comes the Judgment Seat of Christ. "Who will both bring to light the things hidden in darkness and disclose the motives of man's heart. All that stuff that people hide; all that rebellion that's there; and, all that thumbing their nose at God because the expository preacher rubbed you the wrong way--at the Judgment Seat of Christ, it's all going to come out. You will discover who was right and who was wrong. "He will disclose the motive of men's hearts, and then each man's praise will come from God." Of course, that's the only praise that counts. Whether people praise you or not doesn't mean anything. But if God praises you, that means a lot.

It is well to also remember in this respect the very words of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself on this matter. Whose approval do you need as a Christian? Matthew 10:25-26: "It is enough for the disciple that he becomes as his teacher, and the slave as his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul (they call Jesus the devil), how much more the members of his household?" What do you think they're going to call you Christians who follow him? "Therefore, do not fear them. There is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known." That should send a chill through you. All those secret things you've said about the people who are in spiritual authority and guiding in instruction, do you think you're going to get away with that? It's all been recorded. It's all going to be revealed. There's nothing that is hidden that will not be made known to you. You'll find out. You will know the consequences. It's all the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Negative volition to the mind of God then, which is what you get in expository preaching, is negative volition against God's truth and against His true messengers. That will cost you dearly in the Lord's presence.

In John 8:44-45, here were the Jewish leaders rejecting the instruction of the Lord Jesus Christ; the Prince of teachers; the Expositor of all expositors; and, the One who knew the real truth of God: "You are of your father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature. For he is a liar and the father of lies." Everything in American society is built by Satan. All the institutions; all of the value systems; all the objectives; and, everything on all planes of human relationships is all the big lie of Satan. He is the deceiver. If you follow that as your pattern (the people of this world), you'll chase the same foolish empty things with your eyes on things below instead of your eyes on the things above.

Verse 45 says, "Because I speak the truth, you do not believe me." If you have been given the truth and you do not believe it, you will be in for some big accounting with God. ... 1 Corinthians 11 tells us what happens to people who reject the truth of God relative to the Lord's Supper: psychological distress; emotional upset; physical ailments; and, early premature death. Those who rebel against an expository ministry like we have at Berean are rebelling against the truth of God. They will never improve their spiritual lives or their service for God. For all their lives, they will take second best as Christians.

Sinful humanity today is in great rebellion against God. It dismisses biblical prophecy as the mere speculation of preachers. It is not concerned about the future with God, even though it's staring us in the face. The terror on 9/11 is a very small example of what is going to be all over this earth in the very near future when God's wrath finally is poured out. Where are you going to be standing as a Christian in relationship to that? Well, you'll be in heaven because the rapture will take first place, but what would you go there with? The prophetic dealings of God are always accurate; they're always on target; and, they're always true. God speaks reality. He does not blow off, like some blowhard to be ignored. When our Father speaks, it is for real.

I close this service with a few Scriptures. What God has said will come to pass. We have a sure word of the future in Scripture, and we have the sure word of the guidance of the principles for our lives in terms of our eternity to come as well as our blessings now.

Ephesians 2:10: "For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which good works God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." This is your mission of good works and your means to perform those good works.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15: "For no man can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now, if any man builds upon the foundation (that is, the foundation of his salvation) with gold, silver, precious stones (that is, divine good works), wood, hay, straw (human good works), each man's work will become evident, for the day will show it (the day of the Judgment Seat of Christ) because it is to be revealed with fire (the fire of God's judgment and evaluation), and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it (upon his salvation over the course of his life span) remains (divine good works), he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up (human good works and carnality), he shall suffer loss. He himself shall be saved. Yet so as even through this very fire" (the judgment of God). God will judge you fairly. You are saved. You will go to heaven, but you will go there as poor as a proverbial hound dog.

Luke 9:23-25: "And he was saying to them (Jesus was saying to them) all, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me (your mission). For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life, for My sake, he is the one who saves it.'" If you muddle around all day long with your life on yourself, you'll lose that time. Those of you who focus your life upon your time of living each day for Christ, you will save it. "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world and loses (or forfeits) himself.

Luke 12:15: "And Jesus said to them, 'Beware. Be on your guard against every form of greed, for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.'"

2 Corinthians 5:10: "For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Revelation 22:12: "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to every man according to what he has done."

Finally, Romans 13:11: "And this do (obedience to your mission and to the principles of the Word of God) knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep. For now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed." You're closer to the day of dying. You're closer to your salvation in heaven. Now is the time to get with it. Don't keep putting the things of God second place. "Someday. Someday. Someday. Oh, yeah, I forgot to do that." This is the time. Very soon we're all going to be out of here.

Dr. John E. Danish, 2002

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