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Luke 12

We are not told which city in Samaria that this happened in; what we do know is that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem and He has repeated conflicts with the Jewish Religious leaders in almost every town He stops in. In this instance Jesus had just accused the religious leaders of numerous nefarious acts;

52 Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

The Leaven of the Pharisees

1In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Based on the terms used it is apparent that the size of the crowds was growing to come see, hear and observe what Christ and His Apostles were doing in the area of healings and dealing with demon possession. It says here that the crowd was not just large but walking over each other try to get close to Christ. This sentence has two main parts; first describing the size of the crowds and secondly a somewhat private conversation with His disciples.

Jesus comments or condemns the pharisees for what He calls hypocrisy.

According to Strong's Concordance Word Helps

5273 *hypokritēs* (a masculine noun derived from [5259](#) /*hypó*, "under" and [2919](#) /*krínō*, "judge") – properly, a *judging under*, like a *performer acting under a mask* (i.e. a theater-actor); (figuratively) a *two-faced person*; a "*hypocrite*," whose *profession* does *not* match their *practice* – i.e. someone who "says one thing but *does* another."

Jesus couches the accusation of hypocrisy in the word Leaven.

Strong's Concordance;

Phonetic Spelling: (dzoo'-may)

Definition: leaven

Usage: leaven, ferment, both literally and metaphorically.

Word helps

2219 *zýmē* – leaven (yeast); (figuratively) the *spreading influence* of what is typically *concealed* (but still very dramatic). Leaven is generally a symbol of the spreading nature of *evil*.....

The basic definition of Leaven is a microbe (a living fungus) that was found on the skin of grapes that when washed from the grapes and added to sugar would cause the fungi to grow and eventually become a yeast like substance. It would be

introduced into a mixture of flour and water causes the associated meal to rise or expand through fermentation.

The idea that Leaven was somehow associated with evil came from when God sent a plague upon Egypt and its ruler for enslaving God's People Israel and refusing to let them leave Egypt for the Promised Land.

When Pharaoh made his final refusal to Moses, God's spokesman God sent the angel of death to pass over all of Egypt, even houses of Israelites; to kill all the first born of both man and animal in Egypt. But God warned Israel to sacrifice a lamb and put the blood of the Lamb on the door posts so the Angel of death would pass over any family that had done so. The Egyptian loss of life was extraordinary including Pharaoh's own first-born son.

God also warned Israel to prepare to leave the next day urgently in such a fashion that they would not have time to prepare their normal bread for traveling food. Instead they were to mix the normal bread making meal together but not put in the leaven as they would have to wait for it to rise. The urgency of leaving was so great that they were to take and bake the unleavened bread for their traveling food.

It has since been declared part off the Passover festival that Israel is to celebrate annually. It is done by removing all leaven or anything that has touched leaven in their homes. The festival lasts from 7 to 8 days depending on when the Sabbath falls.

I believe it will play a critical role in when Christ returns for His Church and or to stand on Mt. Moriah in Jerusalem.

The implication of Jesus condemning the religious leaders of having leaven in their lives and that was defined by Christ as Hypocrisy; was that they had been deceived by evil, perhaps not even understanding their errors, but fully committed as if totally saturated with leaven or “evil”.

Luke 13:21 It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Leaven microbes when it comes in contact with water will grow as God designed it to. So even a little amount will eventually leaven the entire loaf; in this case a little evil unchecked will cause the entire person to become evil. That was the concern Christ had with the religious leaders, whether they could recognize their error or not leaven (evil) was at work in their hearts.

2For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

3Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have

spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

This may well be alluding to the Great White Throne Judgement at the end of the millennial; when all will be made bare and none of the goats on the Lords left will have any defense; it will all be made public for all to see every evil thing, thought and word those who reject Christ have uttered or done.

We as believers may experience a similar unveiling; not in a judgement sense as our sins are forgiven but at the Bema Seat; Judgment Seat of Christ.

Romans 14:10 But e why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou rset at nought thy brother? for swe shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, uAs I live, saith the Lord, wevery knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then xevery one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear qbefore the judgment seat of Christ; rthat every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

The Bema Seat of Christ does not determine salvation that is a settled matter; it was settled at the Cross and the moment you declared you were a sinner and asked Christ into your life, believing He died for your sins and was raised from the dead to everlasting life.

1 John 2:2 *2 zHe is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but aalso for the sins of the whole world.*

John 3:16 *16 For zGod so loved the world, that he agave his bonly begotten Son, that xwhosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who awalk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

What is not settled is our rewards or loss of rewards based on how we conducted our lives how we run the race.

1 Corinthians 9: 24 *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives sthe prize? So t^rrun that you may obtain it. 25 Every uathlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we van imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I wdo not box as one xbeating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and ykeep it under control,2 lest after preaching to others zl myself should be adisqualified.*

2 Timothy 4:8 *8 xHenceforth there yis laid up for me za crown of righteousness, which the Lord, zzthe righteous judge, shall give me at athat day: and not to me only, but unto all aa^athem also that love bhis appearing.*

We are told there are various rewards give to those that endure to the end. We are also told that some will lose rewards due to their sinful behavior as Christians.

1 Corinthians 3: 10 *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11* *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12* *Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 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.*

The fire is Jesus and His Righteousness sets the standard. It will be by that scale will our works, good or bad, be measured.

Fearing God Alone

([Matthew 10:26-31](#))

4And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. **5**But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. **6**Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? **7**But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Jesus makes a compelling argument that we are to submit to death without care or worry. Many will die due to those who hate Christ and want to kill His disciples. It is of little consequence when you consider what is to be gained as compared to what is to be lost.

If you consider eternity and you place any one of our lives on a line that represents eternity that blip on the eternity line is unrecognizable as if it didn't really exist it is so tiny it would be

hard for us to see it. So, to try and save the blip that doesn't hardly exist is a waste of time; instead put your efforts to becoming part of the eternal line that exists for ever and ever.

That is not to say that God does not step out of His eternal existence to not only observe but to have a personal relationship with each believer. To explain the depth of caring God has for you as a human being, believe it or not, He knows how many hairs are upon your head. He knows when one of His animal creations fall; nothing is beyond His view. In that relationship that we have with God through His Son Jesus Christ as a believer; eternity is something to seek out, not to fear or resist. He indicates we should willingly give up our lives for Christ's sake to gain that eternity with them. The thing to worry about is not the one that can kill the body but the one (God) who can condemn the body and eternal life to hell.

March 1, 2020

Confessing Christ

([Matthew 10:32-33](#))

8Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

We are given clear doctrine that we are not to worship angels as they are fellow workers in God's Kingdom with us. However, God made Angels a bit higher than mankind, even a bit higher than Jesus Himself as a human.

*Hebrews 2: **5**For unto the angels hath he **not** put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. **6**But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? **7**Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:**8**Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.**9**But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

9But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

Angels were created a little higher than man; the exact reason is not stated but it must be connected with their ability to operate in at least 2 dimensions; our 3-dimensional world (as God determines) and within their other dimension that we as humans cannot see. There are likely other attributes that angels have that humans do not have but the Bible is limited in what those attributes are.

Jesus states that He will deny any man that denies Him, and He will deny this man before the Angels. The denial is likely to be in front of God and therefore the angels will hear the denial. It makes no sense that Jesus would just deny a man or woman before the Angels, they have no authority to judge. We should take the time to study angels and find out exactly what the Bible tells us about them.

Q. What does it mean to deny Christ before man?

From Strong's Concordance;

Phonetic Spelling: (ar-neh'-om-ahee)

Definition: to deny, say no

HELPS Word-studies

720 *arnéomai* – properly, deny (refuse); hence, *contradict*, refuse to affirm or to confess (identify with); disown (repudiate).

Any form of rejection of Jesus Christ will result in a similar rejection by Him of the person who says “no” to His free Gift.

Let's say your with a group of people who are obviously not Christian, and the discussion somehow comes around to how worthless Christians are that they use Christianity as a crutch as Hitler purposed? You are there in the midst of these folks; how do you respond?

Perhaps the best response is to tell people not to blame Christ for man's actions. That to put your eyes on any man or woman is guaranteed to fail because the fallen nature of mankind. Declare that you are a Christian but that you are also a sinner saved by the Blood of Christ. As Christians we keep our eyes on Jesus as He will never fail us, even though we fail Him daily. Do not deny Christ; EVER. There are many "what if's", before you encounter one just determine in your heart and mind that you will never, give up, you will never surrender NO MATTER WHAT!

10 And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost **it shall not be forgiven.**

Jesus then immediately goes from the point of denying any man or woman who denies Him to defending the Holy Ghost. This verse has caused a good deal of consternation and debate within Christendom for some time.

Strong's Concordance defines blasphemy in general terms as this;

Transliteration: blaspheméó

Phonetic Spelling: (blas-fay-meh'-o)

Definition: **to slander, to speak lightly or profanely of sacred things**

Usage: I speak evil against, blaspheme, use abusive or scurrilous language about (God or men).

The definition is somewhat general in that speaking abusively or scurrilously against God or man is deemed blasphemy. We saw a version of this accusation by the religious leaders against non-other than Christ Himself, when He obviously declared Himself to be the Son of God.

John 19: 7*The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.*

Matthew 26: 64*Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. 65**Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. 66**What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.*

These verses are leveled against the Messiah Himself, but He was even willing to forgive them for their errors. He said so at the cross;

Luke 23: *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

Even though these things were said and done to the Messiah, He did not say that it was an “unpardonable sin” committed by the Hebrew nation against Him the Son of God. It was a sin but forgivable through acceptance and repentance.

However, this verse specifies that speaking blasphemy not in general but specifically against the Holy Ghost is what would seem an unpardonable sin.

Q. Why would it be an unpardonable sin to speak blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and not against the Son of God?

Remember the definition;

to slander, to speak lightly or profanely of sacred things

That is a general term; Jesus allowed it when it was spoken against Himself because He came for the purpose of dying for the sins of mankind. That would include blasphemy against Him specifically. Jesus is a Sacred thing! But He has chosen to forgive if anyone repents and accepts Him as their Savior.

Q. The Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit is a different matter; Why?

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

This is but one of many verses that tell us of the value of having the Holy Spirit. In this verse it is declared that He, the Holy Spirit, is the SEAL upon each believer until the day of redemption.

Over our years of study, we have found that the seal of the King was the final word and could not be violated or broken by anyone

other than the designee or the King himself. This is the Seal of God upon any man, woman or child that calls on the Name of Jesus to be Lord of their lives. It is unbreakable except for perhaps one manner? Blaspheming the Holy Ghost; it is unforgivable.

Ephesians 1:13

***And in Him, having heard and believed the word of truth--
the gospel of your salvation--you were sealed with the
promised Holy Spirit,***

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do not extinguish the Spirit.

Hebrews 10:29

***How much more severely do you think one deserves to be
punished who has trampled on the Son of God, profaned
the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and insulted
the Spirit of grace?***

The Holy Spirit was given to us; all of mankind as a SEAL for those who chose to follow Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives. That SEAL is unbreakable; but somehow some men break it and will never see salvation.

We all know of Christians that back slide, you may be one yourself, or those that claim Christ but walk as the world walks, even those who have been Elder, Deacons and Pastors and fall into sin and seem to walk away from their salvation. All of these are forgivable sins; so, what is NOT forgivable?

Rejecting Jesus. That is the unforgivable sin and it effects the very promise of the Seal of God. The Seal is unbreakable so those who are saved and have back slid are still able to see redemption all they have to do is repent, confess their sins and come back to Christ.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The one that refuses to confess, that he or she is a sinner, is committing the unpardonable sin; rejecting Christ by saying they don't need a savior, they don't need The SEAL of God that started at the Cross through the Blood of Christ.

Not to be to crass, but it is a packaged deal, you either accept Jesus as the Son of God, His Blood as the propitiation for your sin and the SEAL of the Holy Spirit; or you don't. If you reject any of those three things you have committed the unpardonable sin; one is not available without the others.

I don't think it would be possible to accept Christ and His Blood and reject the SEAL the Holy Spirit. They are simply inseparable.

11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:

Do any of you remember this saying from back in the 80's or 90's?

If you are arrested for being a Christian, will there be enough evidence to convict you?

I think that question becomes more and more important as we draw near the end. Is your life so obviously filled with Christ that there is no mistaking who you serve? Or, do you still have one foot in the world and the other in heaven thereby not having sufficient evidence in your life that you belong to Jesus?

I think Paul said it best when under pressure to answer the question of; tell us what you know about Jesus?

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

That is my defense if I am ever accused by the government of being a Christian! What will yours be?

12For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

This symbiotic relationship between the God Head and man; God the Father who is always ready, willing and able to forgive us of our sins if we will just confess. Jesus, the one who willingly crawled upon the Cross that all men might be saved and shed His Own

Blood to save all of mankind. And the Holy Ghost who is the SEAL of God place on all those who confess their sins and recognize that they need a Savior and that Jesus Christ is that Savior. The Godhead will prepare your hearts and minds to defend your decision to follow Christ even unto death. But until that moment comes simply remember; All I know is Jesus and Him crucified.

The Parable of the Rich Fool

13And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.
14And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? **15**And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

People watching and learning from Christ can come up with some pretty amazing things to ask for. Remember Mary and Martha, one sister asking Christ to make her sister come and help with serving? Now we have a brother wanting Jesus to make his brother divide an inheritance. Wow, Jesus is incredulous but as usual will make teaching moment out of a crazy situation.

The fact is that the best thing we can ask Christ for on a day to day, moment by moment basis is; HELP. He is our only HOPE and He is our only Source of HELP.

Christ again seizes on the idea of physical things as opposed to Spiritual things. He reminds this man and those listening that to worry about treasures of this world is a waste of time, when you die, they are worthless to you. Other's may find value in them but then they are mistaken as well. Place your heart in the things of eternal value and when you die you lose nothing, you gain everything.

16And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:
17And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?
18And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. **19**And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. **20**But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? **21**So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

How hard would it have been for this rich man to simply ask God for HELP, for wisdom? Declare you don't know what to do and just ask for HELP. Help me be saved; Help me to walk in righteousness, Help me to repent, Help me to Forgive and to Love and to show Mercy and Grace to others. HELP

As humans we make plans for our future and invest heavily with our time, effort and money to carry out those plans. Jesus point is this; you don't know when your last heart beat will happen. To put off resolving your entire eternity with Christ by asking Him into your life and abandoning your search for wealth, fame and longevity; just give up, and turn to Christ and then everything else will take its proper place in your life.

This man Jesus spoke of made grand plans and before he could carry out the first step he died and now the grandest of plans that he paid no attention to is at hand. The plan of eternity; there is no second chance once you enter that realm, that decision can only be made in this lifetime.

Do Not Worry

([Matthew 6:25-34](#))

22And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. **23**The life is more than meat, and the body *is more* than raiment.

Jesus is not saying don't eat, as the body can survive for about 2 weeks without any food and about 3 days without water. Jesus is saying that God will provide if you walk in obedience. Part of that providing is our taking the necessary steps as followers of Christ to provide for our families and ourselves in the sense of work.

Jesus is not promoting for us to lie around and wait for God to feed us.

1 Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1 Thessalonians 3:10 [10](#)For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

The point Jesus is making is to rely on and seek God in every decision that we have to make. Follow His lead in our personal and business lives out of obedience to His Word.

March 8, 2020 Day light savings time

Warner called and asked prayer for his son Travis.

They are waiting for results of biopsy on his kidney.

[24](#)Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? [25](#)And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?

One might think “stature” would be a reference to height or weight but it a reference to “length of life”. So, by worrying you won’t add a single day or minute to your life. In this verse “cubit” is not a measure of physical length but one of life length.

26If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?

If we can't add another day to our lives then why worry about the rest? There is however a clear message about this idea of not worrying; that is to be diligent in our efforts to work. God intends for us to work since the fall, and that labor will provide for our families and give us extra that we might help those less fortunate.

27Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **28**If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith? **29**And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

God is our source for all the things we need. He is our HELP

*Philippians 4: **11**Not that I speak in respect of **want**: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. **12**I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **13**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

30For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

God has listed a variety of animals and flowers, pointing out that they are dressed so beautifully and give little worry as to what

they will find to eat as God has provided for them in every way. As for mankind, since the fall man has taken a more difficult route, one which, requires daily effort to acquire food and shelter. God helps us do that, but He expects us to work diligently and provide for our families and others.

But in all this labor we are tasked with He has a higher goal in mind and that is to seek Him first in everything we set out to do.

31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. 32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

God's heart's desire it so HELP us, but He wants to know that we rely on HIM for that HELP. When God says HE wants to give it all to you, it is not about this world and this life we live that is the ultimate gift, it is about eternity.

That is not to say that God does not want you clothed and fed and we can thank Him for all that we have even in this world; He is our source and as long as we are obedient to Him He will fulfill those needs in this world as well. But Jesus is pointing out the more important destination; beyond this life.

Some things have eternal value some things have temporal value He will Help you figure out which is which, but we have to ask, we

have to SEEK. There is no better place to ASK and SEEK than in HIS WORD.

Do not be deceived by those that preach the “prosperity gospel” that you are entitled to an abundance of wealth; WE are not. God knows your needs, simply ask Him for Help in providing those needs and then be ready to work diligently in that effort. If God chooses to give you an abundance in this life, then out of obedience share your wealth with those who are in need. It is likely the very reason He gave you wealth in the first place; to help others in His Name.

A presidential candidate recently spent around \$500,000,000.00. Someone errantly determined that if there are 320 million people living in America then this person could have given each person \$1,000,000.00 and had a lot of money left over? A number of news organizations jumped on that idea without doing the math. It actually works out to be around a \$1.56 per person that the five hundred million would provide. Oh well, with the news, if someone says it, it must be true.

33Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. **34**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

It was reported in the news this past week that the Mormon church has in excess of 38 billion in stock portfolio. Hm, and someone was calculating how much good Five hundred million would do; that's chump change to the 38 billion and that is only a small portion of their actual wealth. Imagine that, a church that has laid up billions of dollars from what they say; the excess of tithes that they invested. Hmmm. The information started with a "whistle blower" from within the Mormon Church; why would there need to be a whistle blower inside a church?

If you ask God for riches in this life, that is a shame, you have my sympathy. If you ask God to provide things that you need in this life that is not necessarily a bad thing, it depends on what you intend to do with those gifts from God. Hord them or share them it is your choice. Sharing them will build up stores in heaven for you; to stand before God as a Good and Faithful servant. That is the treasure to seek, to put your heart into; share the blessings God has blessed you with!

At the Bema Seat of Christ those who share what they have will receive rewards, those who do not, will receive no reward. It all belongs to God; we are just put in charge of either a little or a lot and how you deal with that will determine your rewards. That

includes your knowledge of His Word. If you keep His Word to yourself then your reward at the Bema Seat will be limited.

Be Ready for Service

([Genesis 6:1-7](#); [Matthew 24:36-51](#); [Mark 13:32-37](#))

35Let your loins be girded about, and *your* lights burning; **36**And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

This is a direct reference to the wedding feast of the Lamb. The event when the Church big(C) Church is reunited with Christ in His Kingdom above the earth (rapture). No one knows the day or the hour, so it is important to train ourselves to walk in Christ's way every minute of every day. We all fail in that, but we should endeavor to be better tomorrow than we were today.

Matthew 24:3 **3**And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

4And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Jesus disciples ask the question of when all of the events He has prophesied will occur; Jesus answers in part....

.....Matthew 24: 36But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

37But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **38**For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, **39**And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **40**Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. **41**Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Luke 12:40

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

It will be impossible to prepare (ask Jesus into your heart) when you see Christ coming the clouds, your previous decision is what is written in stone so to speak when it comes to being raptured. It will happen in an instant; in verse 40 and 41 above in Matthew the idea is that people are in the midst of walking out life and instantly believers will be taken, and non-believers will be left. No time to correct an error of thinking you won't have time to ask Christ into your heart in that instant. So what is the solution to that problem?

37Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

This word watching from Strong's Concordance;

Phonetic Spelling: (gray-gor-yoo'-o)

Definition: to be awake, to watch

Usage: (a) I am awake (in the night), watch, (b) I am watchful, on the alert, vigilant.

It denotes an active life of being ready at a moment's notice to meet Jesus in the air.

This again is describing the lives we live; are we good servants of the Master or are we slothful. The Bema Seat will reveal the truth; with fire; all things will be tested.

The reference to "... HE shall gird Himself and make them to sit down to meat and will come forth and serve them." This again is likely a representative of the wedding feast of the Lamb, where the groom serves the bride at the feast.

Q. Who is the Groom?

Jesus

Q. Who is the Bride?

The Church Big (C) Church that Jesus started. Don't be deceived there will not be one single denomination at this Wedding Supper of the Lamb. It's not like, wow all the 4 Square people are here but not all the Baptists made it. Remember religion all religion is "man reaching up to God" the question is are they reaching up to the right God? However, Christianity, pure Christianity the Big C

Church is God through His Son reaching down to man. That is the Church to belong to. By all means attend services, fellowship with other believers but be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

There are wolves in the world we are told; and I believe that some of them are wearing sheep's clothing. So be aware and well-studied so you can rightly divide the Word of God.

38And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants.

This is a reference to the other two thirds of the 24-hour day. Those who see His coming in full daylight will be in for an amazing vision; for those who are waiting, and He arrives in the wee hours of the day when it is dark but are ready and watching will be blessed as well. My sense is the Bible has described Christ's presence as "illuminating" so I would think that even in the darkest hour when He arrives His presence will light up the world, but only for an instant.

The three watches can also have a reference to your life; the 1st watch would be your infancy in the Word of God, new believers, the second and third watch would be as you grew in that

knowledge and matured as a Christian. We need to be vigilant in our entire walk as Christians not letting down as we near the end of our lives but persevering in our Faith and in our Walk with Christ.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

I think it is safe to say that nothing else matters; but it really is not all about finishing the race, it is all about how you ran the race? If you finish the race and have not LOVE nor COMPASSION, nor GRACE, what type of race did we run? Was it only for ourselves that we even ran the race?

39And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. **40**Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Q. This house that Jesus speaks of here is what?

It is your life, you must guard your life; be there when Satan shows up to steal, to lie and cheat you and those you love out of our rewards. Satan wants to steal your inheritance and kill you, he wants to kill your family and your neighbors. Be ready with your

loins girded up to run the race of Faithfulness. Commit yourself to Bible Study 7 days a week, prepare; be ready in season and out of season to give an answer. Not only do we not know the day that Jesus will return but we do not know which of our millions of heart beats is our last. Can you imagine in that day standing before the Throne of Jesus to answer His questions as our life is played out?

“I can only imagine”

What words will we speak in our defense or will we be able to speak at all?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Klrc0YuikM>

Wynona Judd gives a testimony about her life and I can only imagine.

The Battle belongs to the Lord, but He calls on us to be His Warriors, His Legion to help harvest His Fields.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6woSL6yC9wA>

Marines singing in the Days of Elijah

41Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? **42**And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* lord shall make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of meat in due season? **43**Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. **44**Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

The Faithful servant of God will find favor in the eyes of the Lord.

There are some commentators that believe these verses are about Peter and the other disciples who were to be left in charge of Jesus household; the Church. I think that is a valid point, but I also believe it is to be expanded like the Church has expanded to include all who walk with Christ in the Body. It reaches to the newest Christian and also to the most senior of believers. The point is that Jesus wants to find those who Love Him to be working at building the Church; studying, teaching, preaching the Good News, not pastor or teachers alone but everyone who is in the Body has an obligation to build the Church.

Remember the verses we just studied that spoke about the foundation that has been laid and that those who build on that foundation will be tested in the materials they used to continue to build with? The apostles laid many courses of bricks to build the Church, and the mortar they used to set the bricks was their own

blood. They will sit in the presence of Christ and be found to have been Good and Faithful Servants; what will we be judged as?

1 Corinthians 3: 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. **But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.** **11** For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; **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.

If you are a true Christian, then you are building on the foundation of Christ. What type of material are you using; straw that will burn up, wood that will burn up, or silver and gold that will indeed melt but not burn up. Gold and Silver will last and become solid again when the heat of Jesus inspection is complete. Have you laid one brick since you became a Christians, or have you laid many courses; building up the Body of Christ and fellow believers? Each brick and course you have laid will be tested by the fiery eye of Christ who will inspect to the very core of the bricks we each lay.

45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to

be drunken; **46**The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint **him his portion with the unbelievers.**

This verse seems to say that a believer can lose their salvation.

These verses starting in vs 45 appear to be written about a believer; a servant of the Most High; who defaults to his flesh and returns to walking again as the world. The description is of one who has power over others and in that power does not do righteously to those beneath him or her but instead starts to use his or her power in an evil way, by beating the male and female servants under their control. This former believer continues to devolve into the former fleshly self, totally abandoning Christ's Righteousness for the un-righteousness of the world.

The delay of Christ's return has struck at the hearts of believes for 2 thousand years, each year hoping this will be the year that Jesus returns. And when He tarries the believer becomes disenchanted and starts to fall back into the world. Only one question can be asked; was he ever a real believer in his heart or was it only mental assent?

God only knows but it seems inconceivable to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and then turn your back on Him and rejoin the world and Satan.

There are some that teach you can lose your salvation; others teach “once saved, always saved”. There is a case to be made for both positions, it really comes down to commitment. Is it from the heart or is your commitment from the head? The distance between heaven and hell is 18 inches, the same distance from your head to your heart.

47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not *himself*, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*.

I believe this verse leans toward “once saved always saved” in that it still refers to a “servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will shall be beaten with many stripes”. The inference is that rather than the master simply destroying the unfaithful servant, the unfaithful servant was punished. The purpose of punishment or discipline is to change behavior and to inflict pain and suffering for not doing as one should do. But in this verse the unfaithful servant is not destroyed or cast into outer darkness.

48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Jesus then speaks of a servant that did not know.

Q. Did not know what?

Did not know His Lords Will.

The inference here is for a believer that is not well versed in God's Word or in seeking God's Will, his punishment will be far less that the one who knows the truth, knows God's Will and His Word will be disciplined much more harshly than the servant/believer who did not know as much.

God's justice system seems to revolve around this doctrine;

If you know a good deal about God and His Word, then much will be required of you; both in your personal walk and your public outreach for the Body of Christ.

The opposite is a true doctrine that those who know little about God's Will and His Word will receive a proportionate response from God.

Now some may think, well I'll just quit studying His Word and I will be better off at the Bema Seat of Christ. Be aware, I hate to tell you this, but Jesus knows the hearts of men and women as well and you can't fool Him. He knows what you are thinking, and ignorance is not a defense.

Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your

hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Proverbs 21:2

All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.

Romans 8:27

And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Revelation 2:23

Then I will strike her children dead, and all the churches will know that I am the One who searches minds and hearts, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

March 22, 2020 *canceled the 15th due to having a cold*

I would like to get off of this specific issue Big C church vs local denominational or local non-denominational church, but things keep coming up that concern me in needing to understand the difference.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Q. What Church?

The Church that HE, JESUS started as a relationship between He and those who give their lives to HIM. The Body are those who belong to “the CHURCH” He started. Believers are referred to as

either “the Church” or “the Body of Christ” both meaning they are part of the True and Only Church that Jesus created.

To start with there is not a single denomination or religion other than the Hebrew religion that God created with Moses mentioned or alluded to in the entire Bible, with the exception of evil “religions” that worshiped evil gods. To be a true Jew, you would have to be from the Tribe of Judah. Judah and the rest of the tribes are Israelites and they speak Hebrew. They were often referred to as Hebrew Children. Here is an explanation that might help;

The question that was asked was “What does the Bible say about Jewish”.

Jewish’ is an adjective - and adjective modifies a noun and you did not provide a noun.

Did you mean, what does the Bible say about Jews?

Nothing directly, because the term ‘Jew’ is an English word, and English didn’t EXIST when the Bible was being written.

However, ‘Jew’ comes from Yehudim, which means ‘Judah-ite’ and Yehudim is the term you see in the NT (rendered ‘Judeans’), and THAT refers to subjects of the kingdom of Judah

(originally)/province of Judea, who were, or course, the Biblical 'Children of Israel'.

There is only one True CHURCH named in the Bible and it is called “the Church”; meaning it is the Church that Jesus started. Jesus addresses His Church in numerous places as did His Apostles, in the New Testament and it is always called; “the Church” and this identifies it further by what city or location it was in.

Here in lies the problem; I hear pastor after pastor replacing “the Church” with whatever the name of their church, rather than clearly differentiating between their denominational or non-denominational church and the Global Church that Christ began. Most people would say; what is the difference and why does it matter.

In Revelation, when Jesus addressed the seven churches, He called each; “To the Church in Thessalonica” or “To the Church in Laodicea” and so on. It is clear that there is only One Church, the One that Jesus started, and it is called “the Church”.

When a local pastor speaks of One Head and One Body, they are absolutely correct. The One Head is Jesus and the One Body is

the True global Church. Often the same pastor will then equate his local church with being the “body”. All those in attendance are not necessarily part of “the Church”. Only those attending that local location that are saved are part of “The Body” “the Church” that Jesus started. To many times these pastors either intimate or outright declare that they are “the Body” “the Church” and you need to function in that local Body. They then too often equate membership with being a part of “the Body” or “the Church”. To my knowledge there is no membership in the sense of being on a roll and able to vote on church matters anywhere in the New Testament. “The Church” has as its head a monolithic single individual and that is Jesus the Christ.

Most people won't take the time to verify what they heard in church or Bible study; they simply take it at face value. The problem can be when this same person who believes the pastor that being a member of this local church equates to being a part of “the Body” “the Church” that Jesus created; they are in error. If all the denominations were really part of “the Church” then they would all be the Church in Libby and this part of the Body meets at a specific location but they are all united under one Head that being Christ. That would be the only name it is known as and they would work hand in hand all over Libby under the single Head Jesus Christ.

Look at the division that takes place just in Libby and then look at the entire world. How effective could the True Body of Christ “the Church” be if it abandoned denominations, memberships and names and worked only for and through Jesus Christ to glorify God.

Q. Who is behind the division within the Church?

Satan

Now lets go to where Jesus says He came not to bring Peace but Division and see if we are right or wrong on “the Church”.

Not Peace, But Division

([Matthew 10:34-36](#))

49I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

This is understood to mean that Jesus wished the fire had already been started on earth so things would already be in motion. This fire is the conflict that will come between good and evil. For the previous century at this point in Christ ministry, religious leaders had become so enamored with the world that they acted more like the world than the salt they were supposed to represent.

It was time for that to end and when luxury is taken from the elites or anyone use to that life style there seems like nothing worse.

They had been accustomed to their piety but had failed God at every turn. They had killed the prophets and it was time to begin the reversal of this evil nature. Jesus wished that this reversal had already started; in essence He was dreading what He must experience in Jerusalem in order to light the fire.

50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

The Baptism that Jesus speaks of here is His Crucifixion; it is where the fire would start that would bring all-out war between evil and good; between God and Satan here on earth. This was going to be the beginning of “the Church”, “the Body” of Christ on the earth operating as “the Church”, “the Body”, “the Bride of Christ”. “The Church” would be the epicenter of this division on earth.

51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

Fire has a tendency to separate things to the molecular level; wood when burned reverts to the atomic level with some molecules being broken apart, destroyed or converted to join with other atoms creating new molecules. The EPA says that no less than 39 molecular offshoots come from burning wood.

This is from <https://www.reference.com/science/happens-wood-burns-33dbec5a4cbe763a>

“The European Chemistry Thematic Network expounds that in wood combustion, a chemical reaction occurs. This means some molecules are destroyed while new ones are formed. When wood burns, oxygen and sugar molecules disappear, and they are replaced by carbon dioxide and water molecules. Molecules are not conserved in chemical reactions. However, the same atoms that make up the reactant molecules form the product molecules. Thus, atoms are rearranged in different molecules.”

God said there is nothing new under the sun; meaning He created every atom and we can neither create new ones nor destroy old ones, they can simply be rearranged creating something different with the same old atoms creating new or different molecules. Jesus point was that this fire He would start would change things on earth almost to the atomic level; believer and non-believers, evil and good, God and Satan.

52For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. **53**The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Division in the family is the most dynamic alteration imaginable within God’s plan. This division would be based on those who would believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God

and those who would reject it. The division has been seen and will increase as the end nears. We think there is huge division over political views, I believe that will pail when compared to the division around the world over those who believe in Christ and those who don't.

I just saw President Reagan's son advertising for a Foundation that is trying to keep religion out of Government. He ends his add by saying something to the effect; "I am a lifelong atheist and am not afraid of burning in hell".

As we see division in our own lands it is not about right and left, or liberal and conservative it has broken down to the molecular level; none will admit it but it is now between evil and good, between God and Satan, that is where our land is at now in 2020 and it is only going to get worse as the Fire of God intensifies.

Jesus does not have the answer for this division;

HE IS THE ANSWER!

Jesus responded in several ways in the gospels as to when the end of time on earth as we know it would end. The response is same; it is a bit vague but to the student of the Bible there are many markers to watch for. The exact day and time are unknown to any man, only to the Father. He has decided before creating

the earth the exact time He will send His Son back; hopefully for His Church first and then for His Triumphant return to stand on the Mount of Olives Mt. Morea in Jerusalem.

Interpreting the Present Time

([Matthew 16:1-4](#); [Mark 8:11-13](#))

54And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. **55**And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass. **56**Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?

This comment was of course directed mainly at the religious leaders of that day but also to anyone within hearing.

Q. Why would God want us to discern the times?

One reason might be that man by his slothful nature would put off important things until the last minute; it is called procrastination. It means to defer, postpone or stall, all of which, allows mankind to think they have time, no rush. A great saying about procrastination is; "If I can do it tomorrow, why do it today".

I am by nature a slothful lazy person, but on one issue I saw the urgency; Salvation. Today is an acceptable day to say yes to Jesus.

From the Berean Study Bible

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: “In the time of favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” Behold, now is the time of favor; **now is the day of salvation!**

Reconciling with Your Adversary

([Matthew 5:21-26](#))

57Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right? **58**When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, *as thou art* in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison. **59**I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite.

The consistent point Jesus is making is that even in our world of legal systems if you are being taken to court for a debt owed, your attorney, if he or she is worth their cost, will tell you to try and reach out and arbitrate with the one suing you.

On civil matters in most states they require both parties try to arbitrate a settlement before it goes to court where the decisions are final, and judgment is rendered for or against you.

Jesus point is that you should seek reconciliation with God today through Jesus’s Blood that was shed for you. Don’t think you can wait until your case is called before the Great White Throne

Judgment to plead your case; by then it is a settled matter, and if you are before God at that Judgment you are already guilty, and YOU will spend eternity in HELL.

A lot of people in denial will say; “How can a loving God sentence people to eternity in Hell?” Quite simply to be frank, you are given an opportunity now, this very day to settle your estate with God, the price has been paid in full by Christ. All you have to do is say “YES”. Yes, acknowledging that you are a sinner, and that you need a Savior. Yes, to Jesus being the Only Son of God and that He died on the Cross to save YOU. That by His Blood you are saved. The only caveat after that is what Jesus says; “If you love Me, follow my commandments”. Now it is up to you to discover through study what those commandments are and seek God in being obedient in every facet of your life. Obedience can’t save you, only the Blood can save you, it is not a work-based Salvation as some would teach it is a Faith based Salvation.

Ephesian 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

It is God’s grace that even allows for a Savior, without God’s Grace He would have never sent His Son to be treated the way He was. And it is by God’s Grace that we are given Faith; a Faith that is a gift from God to you and me.

*All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/>
in King James.*