

## "The End is Near"

(Part Two)

Colossians 3:1-4

### Am I Ready to Meet Jesus Christ One Day?

Overview: Though not the popular topic on End Times, this sermon has everything to do with it...with making me ready for it. My manner of living and Christ's Second Coming have everything to do with each other. For the Bible says that I will meet Him face to face one day. At this meeting my life's works will be Judged by Him.

I will meet Jesus at one of two Judgements: The Judgement (Bema) Seat (**2 Cor. 5:10**) or The Great White Throne (**Rev. 20:11-15**).

### Which Judgment Will I Meet Jesus At? (Faith or Works?)

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven [**Faith**] will enter. Many will say to Me on that Day, 'Lord did we not prophecy in Your Name, and in Your Name cast out demons, and in Your Name perform many miracles [**Works**]? And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice evil.'" - Matthew 7:21-23

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

### If I'm to meet Jesus as a believer one day how should I be preparing?

#### 1. My life ought to be dominated by a heavenly focus. (**vs. 1-2**) (Since I know I'm on my way there.)

- A. This will give eternal meaning to my temporal duties on earth.
- B. How?

- I. **Center my life** on the risen, ascended Christ. (**vs. 1**) (Everything you do should revolve around this.)

1 Peter 3:21-22

Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

- II. **Be purposeful** about it (**vs. 2**). ("Set your mind" - "concentrate your focus" vs. "Keep seeking" - "strive for earnestly.")

1 Peter 1:13

Prepare your minds for action, keep sober, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- a.) Turn my priorities towards heavenly things, not earthly ones.

- i.) With wisdom you can learn to turn any earthly deed into a heavenly one. (**2 Cor. 4:18**)

- C. Satan is constantly trying to turn your attention away from what really matters, your future life in heaven, and toward what doesn't matter, your life here on earth.

- I. He says, "Look over here. Look over here!" all day long.

- II. Here's how to beat him at his own game: **Fix your eyes upon Jesus**. (Hebrews 12:2)

- a.) It will be pretty hard to blatantly sin if your eyes are fixed on Jesus.

- b.) It will be pretty hard to get swept up in the temporal if your eyes are fixed on Jesus.

#### D. **Is my life dominated by a heavenly focus?**

- I. As much as it isn't, for each one of us, something needs fixing.

#### 2. I ought to live my life as if it's already over here on earth. (**vs. 3-4a**)

- A. If I'm a believer, I've already died with Christ to my life...to my self. (*not figuratively, but literally/spiritually*)

- I. Christ, quite literally, is my life now. (**vs. 4a**)

- B. **Have I been baptized?** That's what it's all about.

- I. That's what your saying to the world you'll do when you get baptized. (**Romans 6:3-8; Colossians 2:8-15**)

- C. **Am I living for me or for Christ?** (What's your life about? What would others say your life's about?)

3. **I must look forward to seeing myself as Christ sees me one day. (vs. 4)**

- A. When Christ returns we will see ourselves as He sees us, for who we really are in Him. (1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 13:12)
- B. **This has been the purpose of God for you from the very beginning...to conform you to the image a Christ.**  
(Genesis 1:26; Romans 8:29)
  - I. The Fall fractured that image and the purpose of God for me.
  - II. Now, in Christ, the image is being restored.
  - III. At His return, this purpose of God will be fulfilled for me.
    - a.) Not to make us "gods", but to transform us into the perfect Character of Christ.
- C. **When I begin to see myself as Christ sees me a drastic Focus-Shift occurs.**
  - I. This Focus-Shift will change the way I live my life. (see the rest of Colossians 3)
- D. **Am I ready to live my life for who I really am in Christ?** (*To take my Christianity to the next level of truth? To live like my faith is much more than being religious, or a church goer, or doing good. God is preparing me to be like Him. Why not start practicing now?*)
  - I. The reality of Christ's Second Coming ought to do this in me.
- E. **If your Christianity doesn't have everything to do with being conformed to the image of Christ, your Christianity is sick.**

*Romans 12:2*

*Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to prove what the will of God is.*

Close: Everything this world is doing is trying to get you distracted away from your focus on Christ and His Coming. It's a facade attempting to make you believe the world will go on as it has and is - even promising it will get better - and that your hope should be here, not heaven.