

Driven by Eternity

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

²⁴ Do you not know that **in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize?** So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

Every one of us is going to Stand before Jesus Christ as our Judge.

1 Corinthians 5:8-10

⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him.** ¹⁰ For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, **whether good or evil.**

Every one of us will Stand before Jesus and Give an Account of how we lived this life as believers. The Bible is very clear that He will not only Judge/Examine our works as believers, but He will Judge/Examine our Words, our Thoughts, our motives and our intentions.

With that, let it be understood that you, a Believer, cannot do one things to make God love you any more than He loves you, and you cannot do one thing to make God love you any less than He loves you, but you are in charge of how pleased He is with you.

Hebrews 11:6

And **without faith it is impossible to please God**, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that **he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**

Seek: 1567a. ekzeteo

Definition: to seek out, demand, inquire

Word Origin: from ek and zeteo

ek: 1537

Definition: from the interior outwards, out-come oriented (out of the depths of the source and extending to its impact on the object).

zeteo: 2212

Definition: properly, to seek by inquiring; to investigate to reach a required (life impacting) resolution; to search, "getting to the bottom of a matter".

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance: desire, endeavor, seek after. To seek (literally or figuratively), especially to worship God.

1 Corinthians 4:5

Therefore, **do not pronounce judgment/decision before the time**, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and **will disclose the purposes of the heart.** Then each one will receive his commendation (praise) from God.

When a Sinner stands at the White Throne of Judgment

Judgement: (not condemnation – 90% in NT): a decision resulting from an investigation (a decision).

So, Jesus is going to Judge/Examine our lives as Believers; He is going to judge/examine our works, our words, our thoughts, our motives, our intentions, and as a result of that through examination/investigation, He is going to make decisions over our life, because **judgement means decision**. And as a result of those decisions we are either going to receive rewards or we are going to suffer losses, and the Bible is very clear that the Rewards that we can receive to the Losses that we can suffer are anywhere from reigning beside Christ forever and ever and ever to all the way to everything we did being burned up, that is a vast range, the **first** being the full reward to the **later** being no rewards, and everything **in between** the partial reward

Hebrews 6:2

Instruction about . . . **eternal judgment.**

Eternal Judgment or Eternal Decisions

What does that mean, eternal judgment or eternal decision: there will never be any revision to His decision, they will be decisions that stand forever. What we do with the Cross determines where we are going to spend Eternity, but however, **the way we live** as Believers will determine how we spend Eternity.

James 4:13-15

Boasting About Tomorrow

¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. *What is your life?* For **you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.** ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

I believe what James is saying is this life is **Zero** (a mist), because, as simple math says, any number divided by Eternity is Zero. **What we do with this Zero time is how we are going to live Eternity.**

The challenge then is, "The way you spend your next day will determine how you will spend your Eternity". **With that, "How would you live the next day?"**

What Were You Called & Chosen to Do?

Matthew 22:14

For many are called, but **few are chosen.**

Many people hear the "Call" of God which comes through His revelation of Himself through two things—the creation and the conscience within us. But only the "few" will respond because they are the ones who are truly hearing, "Chosen".

John 10:27-28

²⁷ My sheep **hear my voice**, and **I know them**, and **they follow me.** ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Two Areas where we are going to be Judged/Examined in our lives:

1. **Our involvement in building the kingdom of God.**
2. **How we built individual lives, our influence on them.**

The Word of God refers to us as Builders:

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” Psalm 127:1

God gives us choices on how to Build . . .

1 Corinthians 3:1-15

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and *behaving only in a human way?* ⁴ For when one says, “*I follow Paul,*” and another, “*I follow Apollos,*” are you not being merely human?

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but **God gave the growth.** ⁷ *So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.* ⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and **each will receive his wages according to his labor.** ⁹ **For we are God's fellow workers.** *You are God's field, God's building.*

¹⁰ **According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.**

¹¹ ***For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.***

¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ **each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.** ¹⁴ **If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.** ¹⁵ **If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.**

Illustration: Imagine on your day of retirement, everything you had saved up for to retire was completely lost and/or burned up, and all you had was the shirt on your back, “saved by grace”, after over 40 years of working towards this goal of retirement. How would that make you feel? Yet spiritually speaking we as Believers in our Lord and Savior are preparing for the same outcome, “saved by grace”, but positioned into Eternity with nothing more than our salvation through fire, nothing saved up for Eternity.

Matthew 6:19-21

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ **“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.** ²¹ *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

John 6:27-28

²⁷ **Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.** For on him God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “*What must we do, to be doing the works of God?*”

Matthew 5:19-21

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to **abolish the Law or the Prophets;** I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill** them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore **whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.** ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Abolish: repeal or do away with (a law, right, or formal agreement); loosen thoroughly, overthrow, destroy (both literally or metaphorically), ex. I unyoke, unharness a carriage horse or pack animal.

The Law: God's teaching and instruction – everything that God had established – “the Law”; when we order our lives after these directives, we are not only fulfilling God's will – we are also emulating His “behavior”.

The Prophets: everything that God wanted brought to pass – “the Prophets”

Fulfill: to cause God's will (as made known in the law) to be obeyed as it should be, and God's promises (given through the prophets) to receive fulfilment”; ex. Jesus's Baptism: “*Jesus . . . ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’” Matthew 3:15.*

1 Corinthians 9:1-25

Paul Surrenders His Rights

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? *Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?* ² If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for *you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.*

³ This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴ Do we not have the right to eat and drink?

⁸ Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? . . . ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹² If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

Nevertheless, we have **not** made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ . . . In the same way, *the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.*

¹⁵ But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. ¹⁶ **For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting.** For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ **What then is my reward?** That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God

but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

“For though I am free from all, **I have made myself a servant to all**, that I might win more of them.” 1 Corinthians 9:19

Philippians 2:6-7

⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by **taking the form of a servant**, being born in the likeness of men.

Matthew 23:8-12

⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. ¹⁰Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. ¹¹**The greatest among you shall be your servant.** ¹²Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

I am living for REWARD!

You are Judged by God’s Word (the Fire):

John 12:44-50

Jesus Came to Save the World

⁴⁴And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶**I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.** ⁴⁷**If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.** ⁴⁸The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; **the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.** ⁴⁹For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰And **I know that his commandment is eternal life.** What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

John 17:4

⁴I glorified you on earth, **having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.**

John 6:38

For I have left Heaven and have come down to **earth not to seek my own pleasure**, but **to do the will of Him who sent me**.

“**to do the will of**”: to seek the pleasure of Him who sent me.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we “should walk in them”.**

Psalms 139:15-18

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance; **in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.** ¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts (your purpose and aim for me), **O God! How vast is the sum of them!** ¹⁸**If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.**

In regard to your callings . . .

You will not be Judged according to what you did, you will be Judged in the light of what you were “Called to Do”.

Revelation 13:8 states: “... the Lamb **slain from the foundation of the world.**”

God is saying, “I am going to write this whole story out and then we are going to go back and start it.”

Jeremiah 1:5

⁵“**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you** (“_____” fill/seek God’s blank/calling on your life) a prophet to the nations.”

“**I appointed you a prophet to the nations.**” Jeremiah 1:5

“**I appointed you**”: before the foundation of the world.

“**I appointed you (a prophet):** (“_____” fill/seek God’s blank/calling on your life) to the nations.”

Daniel 7:10

A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; **the court sat in judgment**, and **the books were opened.**

In God’s **Final Judgment** of your life, the **Books** will be open, **about your life, and then He will compare them, what you did in your life, to what you were called to do in your life,** before the foundations of the World, and **REWARD/Judge/Make a Final Decision accordingly.**

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

The God-Given Task

⁹What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, **he has put eternity into man’s heart** (He **wrote out our life/calling** and put it in our heart), yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God’s gift to man.

¹⁴I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; **nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it.** God has done it, so that people fear before him. ¹⁵**That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God requires an account of what is past.**

Or to be more clearly understood, Ecclesiastes 3:15 can be read, “That which is” *has already been*, recorded in the book before I was born, “that which is to be” *has already been*, already written in the book, **God requires an account for what has passed, that which has already been written in the book.**

Did you walk in what he wrote in that book or did you go your own way?

Prayer:

That calling was place upon me before I was formed in my mother’s womb, today I am taking it seriously, I want to fulfill all that you have written about me in the book, and therefore, am asking, Holy Spirit, to open my eyes, my ears, and my heart to preserve and to know and to understand my calling in *Jesus name*.

*John Bevere: **Driven By Eternity** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9X62XcSEN8&feature=youtu.be>*