

LIGHT

Jesus: "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12)

Friendship with God

**Shortest to Read;
Longest to Learn**

Priorities of Life

An online publication by

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTRE

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OUR SHARE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

"...All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient " (Exodus 24:7)

David, having been freed from chaff at the threshing floor of Araunah, was given the plan for God's Temple to be built on the very same site. At that very place too, Abraham proved God and passed his last test of faith.

In Genesis 22:1-2 God appeared to him and told him to offer up his only son Isaac on Mount Moriah. Without questioning God, Abraham took Isaac and prepared to offer him, laying him on the altar, believing that though he should slay his son, the Lord was able to raise him up.

With such a faith and without doubting or questioning God's Word or His ways, we too may take our share in the House of God. Whatever God says, believe and obey Him. He cannot make mistakes. Sometimes we begin to argue like Peter as if we know better than God. In Acts 10:9-16, God spoke three times to Peter, and Peter said, "Not so, Lord,...";

The Lord never asks anybody to do anything wrong. But Peter refused to obey Him and argued with all sincerity. We do not realize how much we grieve the Lord by questioning His dealings with us. We ask why the Lord permits such suffering, such difficulties, and sorrows and painful experiences in our lives even though we are so good and obedient and active in His service.

We see in Acts 9:11-15 that the Lord said to Ananias, "Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus...". Then Ananias also hesitated. "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me...".

So, we too must obey Him without knowing, and must not doubt, question or argue. Our wisdom is foolishness with God. So, we must receive the revelation of God's purpose for His House. We may build good buildings and have

campaigns, and yet not come into God's plan and purpose. In Psalm 132:7, David seems to have had the revelation of God's purpose in His House. As we come to His feet in humility and brokenness, we will receive revelation. God wants humble and contrite hearts which will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Those who have learned to worship Him thus, will be true to Him day by day. They will be willing to take share in the building of God's House. In worship we learn to give to God. But many want only to receive. Many, worship in words but not from their hearts. In verse 8 of Psalm 132 David says, he wants to give God rest, satisfaction, and pleasure.

We need to seek God even in the smallest matters of life and in these also to know and to do His will. Such a life is only possible as we enthrone our Lord Jesus Christ as King. Then we will learn by experience. Our obedience will give God His rest.

- Bro. Bakht Singh -

Let us go to His dwelling
place; let us worship at His
footstool!
Psalm 132:7

THE 7 BLESSINGS

IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

**Blessed is the one who reads aloud
the words of this prophecy, and
blessed are those who hear, and
who keep what is written in it.**

Rev 1:3

**Blessed are the dead who die in
the Lord from now on.**

Rev 14:13

**Blessed is the one who stays
awake.**

Rev 16:15

**Blessed are those who are invited
to the marriage supper of the
Lamb.**

Rev 19:9

**Blessed and holy is the one who
shares in the first resurrection.**

Rev 20:6

**Blessed is the one who keeps the
words of the prophecy of this
book.**

Rev 22:7

**Blessed are they that do His
commandments**

Rev 22:14

Pearls among Gems

Shortest to Read; Longest to Learn

All the Psalms, 150 of them in the book of Psalms, are like gems. There are four Psalms which are outstanding; they are like pearls among gems. I am referring to the four Psalms that are shortest; they are the shortest to read but, they are so deepest to understand.

Psalm 117 is the first one; second is 131; then 133; then 134. If you meditate on these Psalms adequately, you will agree with me that they are precious pearls among these 150 gems.

Psalm 117 is the shortest Psalm to read but, the longest Psalm to learn; to study and explain. And also, according to the English Bible, Psalm 117 is the central chapter, 594 chapters before that and 594 chapters after that.

“ O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.
For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.

This would have been gone unnoticed by us if not for the Holy Spirit of God bringing this very Psalm before our eyes in the New Testament, in the words of Paul the apostle. Romans 15:11, “And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.” Paul was in the midst of a great argument, nailing down a truth of God. In Romans 15:7 the context is, “Receiving one another as Christ also received us for the Glory of God”. There was a reluctance on the part of the Jewish people to receive the gentiles. There was a great problem in the New Testament Church at that time when there were Jews and gentiles together in the same Church, some of the Jews were reluctant even to sit together to eat a meal together because of the earlier difference that they had. Paul the apostle is saying, “NO! this is wrong because God has opened the door for the gentiles to be saved.

To support this he is using, among other scriptures, Psalm 117:1. Now I can realize the importance of this Psalm because this is a basic Psalm argues the truth of our salvation today as

gentiles. Today we take this for granted because the gospel is being preached everywhere, all over the world. But remember, it was not open for all at one time. Now it is because of this great plan of God for the gentiles to be saved one day, that we have come into this blessed position.

“O praise the LORD, all ye nations”, how can all the nations praise the LORD without gospel being preached to them? Look at the end result, Revelation 5:9, “they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;” That is the final count in heaven. Every nation; every tongue; every kind of people.

Now, this is a wonderful thing that we are so different to each other but, God had a plan to bring in all these people to Himself, which was not possible at one time, prior to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ but now God has opened the door for us. So, the nations, the language groups should praise God.

So, this is a wonderful Psalm. All what we know in the new testament today about the Church, mysteries about the Church, great

truths about the Church, and everything opens up through this Psalm.

Psalm 117:2a, “For his merciful kindness is great toward us”, the word “great” undoubtedly means “mighty” or “strong”. Whatever our condition might be, God’s merciful kindness is great; powerful; mighty. The worst situation that I may be in is that as God is describing in Amos 5:12 is that our sins have become mighty, “For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins”. But God’s merciful kindness is stronger than that. So, you and I don’t have to continue in mighty sins; sins that have become mighty in our lives.

Romans 5:20, “...where sin abounded, grace did much more abound”. None of us ever think, “I am done for now. I cannot get rid of sin anymore. I am defeated”. His merciful kindness is great; mighty and strong. There is hope for you and me. Believers, we have hope. Sin is not too great for us any more because we have a greater thing, merciful kindness of God.

If you carefully look at this passage and meditate, you will find that these thoughts will provide us with the basis for our day-to-day Christian life.

- Neville Jayasundara -

Anyway

*People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered
Love them anyway*

*If you do good, people will accuse you of being selfish having ulterior motives
Do good anyway*

*If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies
Succeed anyway*

*The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow
Do good anyway*

*Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable
Be Honest and frank anyway*

*What you spent years building, may be destroyed overnight
Build anyway*

*People really need help but, may attack you if you help them
Help people anyway*

*Give the world the best you have, and you will get kicked in the teeth
Give the world the best you have got anyway!*

- Sis. Jasmin -

but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and
not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

PRIORITIES OF LIFE

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Matthew 6:33

Part 1

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

As we read this verse, in the first reading itself we can simply and immediately understand that this verse does speak to us about what we need to give prominence in our lives. Looking at the context in which this verse is quoted, we find that in general everyone seemed to be mindful of the day-to-day matters and needs that concerned their lives, while neglecting the most important aspect in life. And the Lord Jesus Christ quoted this verse and gave the assurance to His audience that when prominence is given in the right order that the general matters of everyday life will fall into place and will come to pass. So, the first striking thought conveyed to us through this verse is the **PRIORITIES OF LIFE**.

We all would agree to a greater extent that we have messed up the priorities in our lives and that's the cause for all this chaos in our lives. And the Lord is reminding us through this verse the importance of setting our priorities right and reverting back to the basics of our faith & living.

So, we are going to consider the **7 PRIORITIES IN LIFE**. Each of these priorities are not second to the preceding ones but like a 7 faceted precious diamond each one is equally important and valuable.

7 PRIORITIES IN LIFE

1) The SAVIOUR - Matt. 1:21

When we talk of priorities, it is the things that we give first place or the due place in our lives. And the due place for the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives should be Him being the **SAVIOUR** of our lives. He is the Saviour and that is

who He truly is. Matt. 1:21 the meaning of the name JESUS is Saviour. And that's the sole purpose of Him coming to this world – Luke 19:10. If we don't recognize this, then we cannot continue in the subject of priorities.

In our relationship with God this is the first step – to know and make LORD JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR. If you don't know Him as the Saviour of your soul you don't know Him at all, and if so everything else in your life is not right.

Let me give you 3 reasons for the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour to be given priority in life.

EXCLUSIVE SAVIOUR – John 14:6/ Acts 4:12

Lord Jesus Christ is the **ONLY SAVIOUR** and the **ONLY WAY** to the Father. Though people may assume and claim otherwise, yet it does not change the truth of this fact. There is no one who has made such a claim, and if you don't accept this exclusive claim of the Lord Jesus, you cannot be saved. Many people even reject the thought of knowing the Lord Jesus as Saviour because of this exclusive claim to be the only Saviour.

EVERYONE'S SAVIOUR – John 3:16/ 4:42

Jesus is the Saviour of the whole world and of all mankind. His work of Salvation on the cross was for all. He paid the same price of blood for everyone. So, every person has the equal opportunity to know Him as Saviour by believing on Him. Though the Saviour is exclusive, Salvation is not exclusive. He wants to be your Saviour today – 2 Cor. 6:2

EFFECTUAL SAVIOUR – Heb. 7:25/ 1 Tim. 1:15/ Isa. 45:22

There is no one who is too far away or too worse a sinner whom the Lord Jesus cannot save. He is able to **SAVE THE UTMOST SINNER TO THE UTMOST**. No matter how bad your life may be, yet there is hope, because you are never beyond the saving range of the Saviour.

Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour?

Can you honestly speak of an experience of **ACKNOWLEDGING** your sinfulness before God, **REPENTING** of all your sins and **CONFESSING** them to the Lord Jesus and **BELIEVING** in the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus thereby inviting Him and **ACCEPTING** Him as the Saviour of your life?

Give the Lord Jesus the due place in your life by making Him the SAVIOUR OF YOUR LIFE!

2) The SUPREME – Romans 14:8, 9

The second aspect of priorities is to make the Lord Jesus Christ the **LORD** of our lives. Very often most of us like to make the Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour of our lives and get a pass to enter heaven, but we don't want to make Him the Lord of our lives and surrender to Him totally. The need of the hour today in believers' lives is to give the Lord Jesus Christ the due place as **LORD** of their lives. That means that He should have total authority and control of every area of our lives. He should be reigning in our heart and lives. We cannot have areas in our lives where access is denied to the Lord Jesus Christ. All our thoughts, words & deeds should be in Him, for Him and by Him. And when the Jesus is the LORD of our lives it will be revealed through our lives and conduct.

Let me list out the **7 CHARACTERISTICS REVEALED WHEN THE LORD IS THE PRIORITY IN LIFE**. Using the acronym SUPREME let me list it out.

S – Submission/ Surrender to the Lord – Eph. 5:22

U – Unmatched/ Uncompromising devotion – 1 Cor. 8:6

P – Purposeful living – Luke 6:46/ Matt. 7:21

R – Reverential fear (Fear of God) – Phil. 2:10,11 / Psa. 89:7

E – Example of endurance – Matt. 10:25

M – Mindful of magnifying the Lord – Luke 1:46/ Psa. 96:8

E – Eminent attitude in life & death – Rom. 14:8,9

Dear friend, take a look into your life and consider this honestly. Have you given the Lord Jesus full control of your life? Does He have free unrestricted access to every area and aspect of your life? Or do you still have areas that access is denied for the Lord Jesus.

The moment you give full access and authority to the Lord Jesus in your life, you will begin to see life with a whole new perspective and experience and experience true meaning and purpose to your life.

3) The SCRIPTURES & SUPPLICATION – Luke 10:38-42 / Psalm 5:2, 3

The third aspect of priority in life is the due place and importance given to the **SCRIPTURES & SUPPLICATION/ PRAYER**. God has given us His Book the Bible and it contains all what we need for our life upon this earth. It's the manual of our lives. **Basic Information Before Leaving Earth - BIBLE**. In Luke 10:38-42 we find Mary understood the importance of listening to God's Word and the Lord Jesus Christ commended her even though her sister condemned her. Many of us are like Martha. Out of all good intentions we are busily involved in various kinds of work and ministry at the expense of God's word. But let us take heed to what the Lord Jesus Christ told in this incident "But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Let us make a decision today to give priority to the SCRIPTURES in our lives.

Prayer also needs to be given priority in our daily life. In reading the Scriptures the Lord speaks to us. And when we pray, we are speaking to the Lord. Sadly, for most of us prayer is all about asking. Though asking is one aspect of prayer, prayer is a time of fellowship we have with the Lord Jesus. We know how friends & lovers desire to spend time chatting about various things and pouring out all that is in their hearts to one another. Prayer is also such an exercise, and the Lord is eagerly waiting to hear our voice in prayer. But pathetically we have become so busy that we don't have any time at all or only just a few minutes to utter something and mark the register that we prayed. The psalmist said that early in the morning at the beginning of the day he will call out to God in prayer. Let us also follow the example of the psalmist and give prayer its due place in our lives. So, Scriptures & Supplication goes hand in hand and are inseparable.

In our relationship with the Lord Scriptures & Supplication take priority in our life due to 3 important reasons

1) Leads us to SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

We listen to the voice of the Lord through the Scriptures and we speak to the Lord through Prayer. This is our spiritual exercise &

fellowship. It is a two-way communication. The result of this spiritual fellowship is

a) HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP

We begin to know each other intimately

b) HIGH REGARD/RESPECT

The knowledge of the Saviour will lead us to Respect Him

c) HEAVENLY REVELATION

We will also have a heavenly revelation of the knowing the heart of the Lord Jesus.

2) Medium of SPIRITUAL FEED

Reading of the Scriptures and Prayer is a means of spiritual supply/feed. Through this experience daily & devotedly we experience the following

a) SPIRITUAL STRENGTH/STABILITY

b) SPIRITUAL SATISFACTION/SUFFICIENCY

c) SPIRITUAL SECURITY – From all false teachers and teachings

3) Lays a SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION

When we give priority to the Scriptures & Supplication, they become the basis of a strong spiritual foundation. Our faithful commitment to the Scriptures & Supplication will result in laying of a strong foundation that will cultivate the following in our life

a) LIFE OF HOLINESS – Sanctified by scriptures & supplication

b) LIFE OF VICTORY – Overcome sin & temptation through Scriptures & Supplication

c) LIFE OF FAITH – Faith through the Word & answer to prayer

Most of us to a greater extent may endeavor to indulge in this spiritual exercise. But the failure and challenge are to make these the PRIORITY in our lives. Only if we learn and devote ourselves to give priority to this matter in our life, we can come into a full experience of the result and blessing they bring about in our lives.

.....To be continued

- Dinesh Malcolm Paul -

FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

Among the qualities expected in a good friend, honesty, truthfulness, trust, sharing of adversity and prosperity, maintaining confidentiality, listening, mutual understanding etc. are essential.

Then it would become a sustainable, strong and crack-proof friendship. You too maybe having such a friend. For some people it could be a school friend, an office colleague or a neighbour. For some others it could be one's own brother, sister, mother, father, husband or wife. In any case it is a good thing to have such a friend.

It is recorded in the Bible that even the God who created heaven and earth had such a friend among the people living on this earth. It is none other than Abraham that we all know so well.

In **Isaiah 41:9** God states that Abraham is my friend. In **2 chronicles 20:5** Jehoshaphat says to God "your friend Abraham". In **James 2:23** of the New Testament it

is recorded that Abraham was called the friend of God. Thus, it is significant that three times over it is mentioned that Abraham was the friend of God. It is important for us believers, to consider the reason for such significance. Among the good qualities one can see in Abraham in order to qualify as a friend of God, the two main qualities would be, believing in God at all times and being ready to obey. In **Genesis 18:19** it is written that God had recognised him as one who not only did this but ordered his children and his household to do the same.

TRUST AND OBEDIENCE

According to **Acts 7:1**, the God of glory appeared unto Abraham. Prior to this, he was serving idols, as mentioned in **Joshua 23:2,3**. No miracle or sign was performed before him in order to make him believe in God. However, when the God of glory appeared and spoke to him, his life was subjected to a great transformation. The reason for this could be the fact that despite the many years of worshipping and serving idols, these futile actions did not bring about any response. He may have

well realised the futility of worshipping idols which though they had eyes, had no sight, though they had ears, could not hear. Therefore, he decided to follow the God of glory who spoke to him in real life. When he appeared to him and told him to leave his land and go to the land that he would show him, according to Hebrews 11: 8 he left trusting and obeying, not knowing where he was heading. What a wonderful trust and obedience!!!

THE PROMISES OF GOD AND MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP

According to **Genesis 12:1-3**, when God called him, he gave him great promises beyond his reckoning. He also trusted God. While Abraham was childless and God told him that one who would proceed from him would become his heir, he believed it. (**Genesis 15:4-6**) Even though it took many years for this promise to be fulfilled, in the end God gave him a son. Then, He was given a challenge at an unexpected time. That is, to sacrifice his only son as a burnt offering. Even on that occasion he responded with obedience and without questioning. **Hebrews 11:18** states that he was sacrificing his son in faith. When God tested Abraham till the end in this manner,

by showing his obedience he proved that he was a friend whom God could trust. The promise that God gave in **Genesis 12** that is, “I will make you a great nation” and “I will give that nation the land I show as it's inheritance” confirming it seven times. Please read the following verses:

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 12: 7

Genesis 13: 14-17

Genesis 15:5-7, 18:21

Genesis 17:8

Genesis 22:17-18

Thus, by Abraham believing God and obeying him, a mutual relationship was formed between God and Abraham.

THE PRIVILEGE OF FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

God too, trusted Abraham. Therefore, he was willing to reveal secrets to Abraham. We know that there are no secrets among good friends. Secrets are revealed only to the most trustworthy friend. Therefore, God says, “how can I hide from Abraham what I am going

to do (**Genesis 18:17**). Before destroying Sodom and Gomorrah God revealed this fact to his friend Abraham. **The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant (Psa 25:14).**

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets (Amos 3:7).

From these verses we learn that God reveals everything to those who are faithfully close to him. In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ also said a similar word to his disciples.. **No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.. (John 15:15)** What a privilege it is to qualify to be so addressed?

THE BLESSING OF FRIENDSHIP **WITH GOD**

We can see another precious blessing of being a friend of God in **Genesis 18**. That is as a result of this friendship when one intercedes on behalf of another before God and pray, He will listen to it. When

we read **Genesis 18:22-32**, we can see that Abraham interceded persistently for the righteous in Sodom and Gomorrah. We read in **John 15:15-16** in the New Testament, a similar idea. After addressing his disciples as friends, the Lord Jesus Christ confirms the friendship by saying **“so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, He may give you”**.

As children of God, we too can benefit from this privilege. Do you, who are reading this, wish to be the friend of God or the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you seeking to get this blessed honour? Then there is no hindrance or difficulty. The best qualification is to trust God in all circumstances like Abraham, and be ready to obey whatever God tells you. **“You are my friends if you do whatever I command you”**. **John 15:14**

Isn't this a very simple thing?

- Anne Jayasundara -

**No longer do I call you servants,
for the servant does not know
what his master is doing; but I
have called you friends.**

John 15:15

BEING ACCEPTED

AND

LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN

How can someone become a born-again Christian? It is by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour and Lord and entering into a personal relationship with God.

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).

An in doing so, we are cleansed of all our sins and uncleanness, and we are introduced to eternal life with our Saviour.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

“And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3)

We as human beings, being shaped in the likeness of God and

having obtained the knowledge of good and evil, bear the inevitable responsibility of resisting temptation and disobedience constantly. We should thrive by loving God and avoiding the lusts of the flesh.

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but of the world” (1 John 2:15-16)

So, it is a quintessential that we live by the given Word, committing to its teachings and ways, this way we get closer to God while vaulting away from the temptation of the depths.

Christ Jesus sacrificed Himself on the cross for you and for me regardless of what we look like, what we talk like, what opinions we have or what we think about each other, He died a gruesome death

nonetheless, being tortured mercilessly up until the crucifixion itself. The gory details of which are in the book of Matthew 27: 27-44, it's in the Bible.

So dear Christian, we should be clear and cognizant of the fact, the Lord Jesus is accepting us. He is patient; He is loving; He will love us not for whoever we at the moment are, but because that's who He is, also because that is what His Word says.

“All that the Father gives me shall come to me, and the one who comes to me, I will by no means cast out.” (John 6:37)

So, do not worry or become anxious or fretful of your works, there is no sin of vile thing that wasn't forgiven when Jesus shed His blood on the cross, He is the Son of God, there is nothing He cannot do. He created you; He knows you and He knows everyone you know and care about, He loves them too, no less than He loves you. It gladdens Him see you as His own.

- Ephraim Rajkumar -

**“If a man remains in me
and I in him, he will bear
much fruit;**

THE WORKS OF THE LORD ARE

GREAT

Psalm 111:2

HONOURABLE

Psalm 111:3

GLORIOUS

Psalm 111:3

WONDERFUL

Psalm 111:4

POWERFUL

Psalm 111:6

VERITY

Psalm 111:7

JUST

Psalm 111:7

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST (BEMA)

DOCTRINE OF REWARDS

PART 01

This word was taken from Isthmian games where the contestants would compete for the prize under the careful scrutiny of judges who would make sure that every rule of the contest was obeyed (2 Tim. 2:5). The victor of a given event who participated according to the rules was led by the judge to the platform called the Bema. There the laurel wreath was placed on his head as a symbol of victory (1 Cor. 9:24-25).

“For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom 14:10, 12)

“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 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. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 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. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (1 Cor 3:9 to 15)

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor 5:9, 10)

“My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what He has done” (Rev 22:12)

The **PURPOSE** of the Bema Judgment

What the Bema is not:

- Not to determine if going to heaven or not.
- Not to punish you for sins committed either before or after saved. Not purgatory.
- Our eternal **Destination** is the consequence of what we **Believe** on earth; our eternal **Compensation** is the consequence of how we **Behave** on earth.

What the Bema is: REWARDING

- In the **past**, God dealt with us as **SINNERS**.
- In the **present**, God deals with us as **SONS**.
- In the **future**, He will deal with us at the bema as **STEWARDS**.

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful” (1 Cor 4:2)

There are degrees of punishment in hell and degrees of reward in heaven. Lord Jesus spoke more of eternal rewards than all other Scripture writers put together. 20 times by the prophets, 20 times by the apostles. Lord Jesus said it more than 50 times.

“For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done” (Matt 16:27)

“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward” (Matt 10:42)

Revelation chapters 1 to 3 there are 22 rewards listed.

The **STANDARD** used for the Bema

Attitudes

- Voluntary, willingly
“If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward” (1 Cor 9:17a)
- Secretly (Matt 6:1 to 6)

Authority of the Word

“Serve by keeping the rules of the Word” (2 Tim 2:5)

Ability

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (Luke 12:48)

The parable of the talents. Evaluation time. (Matt 25:14 to 30)

“For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him” (Matt 25:29)

The **TIME** of the Bema.

Between the Rapture and 2nd Return (Revelation) of Christ.

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. They will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them” (Rev 14:13)

The **CHARACTER** of the Bema

- Fairly
- Thoroughly (“Laid bare”)

Stripped of every outward façade of respectability; Openly revealed in the full reality of one’s character; All hypocrisies and concealments; All our

secrets, intimate sins of thought and deed; opened to the scrutiny of Christ; All false accusations leveled against you will be brought to light; Cruelty, gossip, and misunderstandings will be cleared up; All “he said, she said” arguments will cease; Nothing but facts, nothing but the truth; If you need vindication, you will have it; If you need to be shown your error, you will have that too; No time will be needed to gather evidence; No jurors will be selected to hear the arguments; We will not dispute the outcome.

- Impartially

“For God does not show favouritism” (Rom 2:11)

“Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear” (1 Peter 1:17)

The color of our skin, the size of our income, and our fame or lack of it will suddenly be irrelevant. Every trapping of man will fade into insignificance in the presence of the One who discerns the “thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). Those who teach the Word of God will be judged by “a stricter judgment” (James 3:1)

He will inspect the Rubies as well as the Rubble.

Individually

Graciously

.....To be continued

- Benjamin Devadason -



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