

IX. Eternity in Biblical Perspective
If I Should Die Before I Wake...
“The Final Judgment”
Revelation 20:11–15
Dr. Harry L. Reeder III
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We will be looking at a number of texts in this study in our series ‘If I Should Die Before I Wake’ which is the anticipation of the new heavens and new earth inaugurated by the Judgment that would be inaugurated by the second coming of Christ. In the last study we looked more closely at the second coming of Christ to give you a broad comprehensive understanding of this dealing with when and how Christ will come again. I propose to do the same with the final Judgment and the Judgment Seat therefore we will look at a number of passages.

I love the cadence of the Christian life – the seasons of Advent, Holy Week etc. – and the opportunities they present for outreach and to celebrate. I also love the cadence of the week, serving the Lord six days – doing work heartily unto the Lord – and the responsibilities and roles of life seeking to be a Christian steward that is found faithful. Then to be found faithful on the Lord’s Day. I love the cadence of the Lord’s Day – the morning and evening sacrifices of praise. We are somewhat unusual to have evening services these days but the Sabbath Psalms call for morning and evenings of praise. We see this pattern not only in Scripture but in church history.

The first two Lord’s Day worship services we see in the Gospel were on Sunday evenings. One was when Jesus gathered them in the Upper Room on the day of His resurrection and then again one week later. The Disciple Thomas was not there on that first Sunday service but the Lord was gracious and met with them the next Sunday night with doubting Thomas in attendance.

Practically, it is also helpful for me as a pastor. I love how the Lord draws us together to be encouraged and lifted up as we lift up praise to God on Sunday mornings after a week of work and that is why so much of our worship focuses on the transcendence and majesty of God for I believe you need a big God to live in this world. That why we do this on Sunday mornings. We also love to do the imminence of God on Sunday evenings as that encourages, soothes, equips and exhorts us – that God is with us. He is not only over all but He is in all and through all. Sunday evenings also provide us with special opportunities for outreach due to the fact we can have special events that you can bring others to so they can hear the Gospel through various means. The other things I enjoy on Sunday evenings is the opportunity to do topical expository preaching because that gives me another way to pull the trigger in your discipleship.

I get more time to go to the texts of Scriptures that flesh these topics out and it is the same thing I would do if I could put everyone in attendance in a small group for I pick those things that would build your life. We have added another small group feel to it that every seven or eight weeks you can send questions regarding those topics and we’ll answer as many questions we can during that time. So please use our Sunday evening services as an opportunity to invite those who want to grow deeper with the Lord and as a means for encouraging one another in the Lord.

So let’s get into the topic of the Judgment Seat and I have consciously picked out selected texts that would give us the information we need for a comprehensive but not exhaustive, doctrine of the final Judgment – the Judgment Day, Judgment Seat and Judgment throne – that you can put into your life as a means of discipling you. Let’s first look at Matthew 25. It’s no

accident that we see the topic of Christ's second coming in Matthew 24 and then moves to the Judgment Seat in Matthew 25 which is inaugurated by the Second Coming of Christ.

Matthew 25:31–40 says [31] *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. [32] Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33] And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. [34] Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, [36] I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.’ [37] Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? [38] And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? [39] And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?’ [40] And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.’*

You can hear from this text the echo to Saul when Jesus said to him ‘Saul, why persecutest thou Me?’ Jesus is fully identified with His people and what you do to His people you have done unto Him. One of the evidences of those in Christ and Christ in them (not the grounds of their salvation), are these marks of God's grace, these footprints of God's grace that will be exposed at the Judgment Seat. Let's continue in the passage.

Matthew 25:41–46 says [41] *“Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42] For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ (In other words, there will be plenty of evidence to convict them of their sin of unbelief.) [44] Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ [45] Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

Now I'd like to look at Luke 12. This text is a parable dealing with the matter of the Judgment Seat and tells us that we are to be ready to meet the Lord. We will see here the Judgment Seat is always on the heel of the Second Coming. Luke 12:35–40 says [35] *“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, [36] and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. [37] Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. [38] If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! [39] But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. [40] You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

We do not know the hour or the day the Lord is returning so we don't need to speculate on it but you do need to be ready at any hour and any day. Let's continue and notice in this passage that faithful stewardship now will be rewarded appropriately and rightly in heaven but it's not all He says about the Judgment Seat here for not only is it a place for the stewardship of believers affirmed with rewards, but let's see what else He says about it.

Luke 12:41–48 says [41] *Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?”* [42] *And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? [43] Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. [44] Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. [45] But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, [46] the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. [47] And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. [48] But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.*

So here the one who doesn't exercise stewardship and that's the evidence they don't have a saving relationship with the Master when He comes, for they are numbered with the unfaithful. Not only are there rewards at the Judgment Seat to the faithful in their stewardship but the exposure of the unbeliever will also carry the responsibility for the degrees of the eternal torments of hell. One receives a beating or punishment commiserate to their rebellion against what they knew but not held accountable for what they didn't know. No one stands before the Judgment Seat without knowing God, His invisible attributes, eternal power and Divine nature, but some know more than others. They don't fall into the hands of God at the Judgment Seat under general revelation but they fall into the hands of the Living God having heard the witness of special revelation under the shadow of faithful pulpits. They have a greater responsibility according to this text and therefore if they don't know Christ then they have even greater judgment of torments. Just like all of the joys of heaven are perfect for all for all eternity yet the rewards exist to give us instruments to praise Him with, so the degrees of punishment affirm the degrees of culpability in hell itself, although hell is of actual torment and unendurable for all for all eternity.

Now I'd like to look at Philippians 2:9–11 which says [9] *Therefore God has highly exalted Him (Christ) and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* Clearly in this day and time not every tongue is confessing or every knee is bowing but there is coming a time either in judgment or in affirmation of salvation that every knee will bow and every tongue confess to the glory of God the Father Jesus Christ as Lord. This is obviously the anticipation of the Judgment Day. Now let's look at Revelation 20. We will be looking at Revelation 20 again in some future studies when we look more closely at the loosening of Satan and the final defeat of Satan.

Revelation 20:11–15 says [11] *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. From His presence earth and sky fled away (the old heavens and earth will be rolled up and the new will be rolled out), and no place was found for them. [12] And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books (the Judgment Books) were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books (the Judgment Books), according to what they had done (They don't stand in Christ but on their own merits, therefore their record of sin in thought, word and deed is displayed by what is written in the books).* [13] *And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. [14] Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death,*

the lake of fire. [15] And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

So unless your name is in the book of life it is a foregone verdict of guilty and the judgment of eternal hell. You're only hope is that your name is in the book of life at the Day of Judgment. So before we get to some more passages I want to bring attention to some things drawn from these passages we have just looked at.

So how many Judgment Seats/Judgments are there? First, we don't have a Judgment until we have a Second Coming for the Second Coming inaugurates the Judgment Seat. So why would I ask the question about how many Judgments and the reason is there are a number of systems of theology concerning eschatology which is the doctrine of the last things. These revolve around your view of the millennia. Are you pre-millennial, post-millennial, a millennial or as one preacher said 'pan-millennial' where it will just pan out and I'll wait and see how it works out? Revelation tells us of a millennial – a reign of Christ upon the earth for a thousand years. Is this reign of Christ extending to the earth as a literal thousand years or is it a symbolic term in the book of Revelation or a number that has literal symbolic meaning and how should it be seen and understood? I will get to this in near future study in this series.

The millennial view impinges upon your view of the Second Coming. If you are a millennial you have a view of the Second Coming. The post-millennial says that Jesus is coming after the 1,000 year reign of the success of the Gospel as it moves throughout the world. In other words, the Great Commission will lead to the domination of the Great Commandment throughout the world, a glorious millennial reign, then Christ comes at the end of it in which there will be a final rebellion of Satan to be put down. This view has variations but that's the basic view. Therefore, a post-millennial would only have one Judgment Seat at the end of that millennium.

The a millennial position believes in a millennium but the millennium is a symbolic term of a thousand years and it's between the ascension of Jesus and the Second Coming. It's not a physical 1,000 years but a period of time of perfection with the ten times ten times ten – the number of perfection that is used – and the thousand years is considered that growing reign of the Kingdom of God throughout all earth through the proclamation of the Gospel and the Great Commission and then Christ comes again, then the Judgment Seat and then the new heavens and the new earth. It's a pretty straight forward view.

Then we have the pre-millennial. In the last 175 years there are now two pre-millennial views. One is known as historical or covenantal pre-millennialism. Some of my best friends hold to this view, including Dr. Schaefer, Jim Boyce, Will Barker, Dr. J. Oliver Buswell, J. Barton Payne and other great theologians. This view is that Jesus comes back and sets up a thousand year reign and at the end of that reign Satan brings another rebellion in which Jesus then from the heavens comes again to put the final touch of the final Judgment therefore there are two Judgments because there are two Second Comings. There is a Second Coming that sets up the 1000 years and then a Second Coming that sets up the new heavens and the new earth. Thus there is a Judgment God brings when He comes to set up the millennium and then a Judgment God brings because of the rebellion at the end of the thousand years as He sets up the new heavens and the new earth.

Then a lawyer comes in and seems to find a way to mess things up unless they are astute Christian lawyers that are members Briarwood Presbyterian Church (smile). This lawyer went by the name of Darby who had a dream and brought another view to the Scripture called dispensationalism. In its original form it was that God administers His saving work through

seven dispensations. In other words, the covenants that are building to give us an understanding of the covenant of grace are pulled out and said to be different ways that God saves. Dispensationalism has been morphed and edited so it's not quite the same as it was under Darby and popularized by a Bible scholar who wrote a study Bible and his name was C.I. Scofield. In that was this final administration of God's work of grace in that Jesus would come back but He's not coming back all the way for He only comes back part way to rapture out the church. I dealt with this some in the last study and don't feel this is the left behind concept where the believers are raptured out and the unbelievers are left behind. If you read the text this came from it is actually the opposite that is true, where believers are left into the security of the Lord in the new heavens and the new earth but the unbelievers are those who are taken away in the text of Matthew 24.

Going a bit further in this dispensational view, after the church is raptured out there is this seven year tribulation. The post-millennial and a millennial would say that we are always in a tribulation that will get more and more intense for Jesus says 'Do not be fearful or discouraged, put your trust in Me for in the world you have tribulation but take courage I have overcome the world and in Me you have peace' (John 16:33). They believe the tribulation continues with intensification alongside the Kingdom of God intensifying and spreading throughout the world as the evil empire is constantly striking back.

So the pre-millennial position is that Jesus raptures out the church (coming half way) and this is not a public Second Coming but a secret Second Coming, then God will go back and do another work particularly in Israel where there will be this seven years of tribulation during that time. At the end of that tribulation Jesus comes back again and sets up the millennium for a thousand years and with the rebellion at the end Jesus comes again. So in the pre-millennial dispensation view two and a half Second Comings.

Realize your view of the millennium effects how many Second Comings there are and how many Second Comings you think there are will effect how many Judgments there are. If you are a covenantal pre-millennialist you believe there are two Second Comings and two Judgments. If you are an a millennial then you believe there is one Second Coming and one Judgment. If you are a post-millennial then you believe there is one Second Coming and one Judgment. If you are a dispensational pre-millennial there are other issues to deal with but one of them is you have two and a half Second Comings and three different Judgments. Thus you hear about the Judgment upon the world at the Second Coming of Christ with the rapture of God's people, then the Great White Throne Judgment that happens, then the Judgment of the nations that takes place. So instead of seeing one Judgment that is being accomplished in what is being revealed in Scripture there are three in this view because there are three Second Comings. I realize this is a lot of information but each view relates to how many Second Comings you believe there will be which will relate to how many Judgments there will be. We will take a closer look at these millennial views from the book of Revelation in later studies.

I believe the weight of the evidence of Scripture is that there is one Second Coming and there is one Judgment in which all of God's work of judgment is going to be accomplished. The next thing I want to distill is the fact that 'who' is the Judge. On one hand you can say this as a Christian; God is the Judge. I would say you are right and you can say God is the Judge by referring to Father, Son and Holy Spirit because all three Persons of the Trinity are engaged. Whenever God does a work – in creation, in redemption, in providence – it is done as a Trinity. In Creation the Father authored it, the Son accomplished it and the Spirit affirmed and ordered it. In redemption God authors our salvation, the Son accomplishes it and the Spirit applies it. In

providence the Father sends His loving care for us as His children, Jesus intercedes for us and the Spirit of God intercedes for us with groanings too deep to be uttered. Whenever you refer to the Judgment it is God's Judgment who is upon the throne with all three Persons being engaged yet what is clear from Scripture is that the Father in light of Christ's Incarnation and His victory as the Messiah, appoints Him – the Lamb will sit upon the Throne. It is the Lamb that will bring the Judgment decrees and your only hope is that that Judge is also your Redeemer and you're in the Lamb's book of life in that Day. So who will sit on that Throne? It is abundantly clear in Matthew 25, Daniel, and Philippians 2 that the Lamb is on the Throne as the Judge.

It also needs to be affirmed, not only is the Trinity to be honored by all the works that God does including the Judgment, that the elect angels will be engaged at the Judgment for they will be gathering up the great and the small. They will be part of the dividing into the left and the right, the sheep from the goats. So, the elect angels will be serving the Lord at the Judgment.

Now the question is, who is going to be judged? We see the answer to this in Matthew 8:29, II Peter 2:4 and Jude 1:6. In these texts we'll also see that the Judgment Seat will also judge the fallen angels. We also have this affirmed in the life of Jesus when He meets up with the man who is demon possessed with many demons – called legion (Mark 5:1–13; Luke 8:26–39; Matthew 8:28–34). When this legion of demons came upon Jesus they asked in Matthew 8 'why are You here, it is not our time yet.' Time for what? They know what is coming – the Judgment. They have already been cast down with the fallen angel we now call Satan, the Adversary and it seems as if the Bible indicates the fallen angels are one third of the population. Jesus provides no atonement to save fallen angels but they will all appear before the Judgment Seat. They know that Day is coming.

Then the Matthew 8 text says that Jesus permitted the demons to go into the swine. The swine are considered unclean. When the demons go into the swine, the swine then go over the cliffs into the sea. Here is where doing your work in the study of the Old Testament gives this passage more understanding. In the Old Testament God's grace is pictured as springs and rivers. Fallen humanity with its sin and rebellion, is pictured as the sea. The sea was the door to the abyss, the intermediate state of torment. We are told that many of these fallen angels are already in the abyss and then these from the demoniac were sent into the abyss. As the swine possessed by the demons went over the cliff into the sea that was a metaphoric symbolic statement of their consignment under the judgment of God. The final Judgment will be when Christ returns and the Judgment Seat is set up and the fallen angels will receive their final judgment of God that send them and Satan into the lake of fire, in which also will be cast death and hades – the abyss.

Who else appears before the Judgment Seat? It will be all of humanity. No one will miss this and that includes the believer because the believer is apart of the great and small. Your hope is not the miss the Judgment Seat, your hope is the Judge has already rendered the verdict for you because you are in the Lamb's book of life. Now I would like to look at II Corinthians 5.

II Corinthians 5:6–10 says [6] *So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, [7] for we walk by faith, not by sight. [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.* Here Paul is talking to believers.

There will be verdicts from the Judgment Seat for believers but not of salvation but verdicts of stewardship. What kind of stewardship have we practiced for we are accountable for the gifts God has given us, the roles God has given us to fulfill, the relationships and

responsibilities He has given to us. We should never look at someone who is more gifted with jealousy. The Bible says we are to be content with what we have been given. I really appreciate Dr. Robertson McQuilkin on this. One time I was listening to him and he said ‘Do not look with pride upon the gifts God has given you and arrogance. Do not look at the lack of them with dismay or others with more out of envy. If God has given you ten drums then beat them for Jesus. If God has given you five drums then beat them for Jesus. If God has just given you one drum then be the best one drummer you can possibly be. Be found faithful with the gifts that God has given you.’ We will give an account for what God has entrusted to us – our resources, roles, responsibilities and relationships.

When will Jesus bring us before the Judgment? It will be after He comes again. I think the Biblical understanding is that He is coming again. He is not coming again twice or three times. When He comes again, then will come the Judgment and then the new heavens and the new earth. What will happen because of the Second Coming and the Judgment? Here are a couple of things that will happen at the Judgment after the Second Coming of Christ.

One, is consummation. Now Jesus is Lord but not yet has it appeared in all of its majesty. Now I am perfect in Christ but not yet have I been perfected. Now Christ reigns but not yet has His reign been extended and all of His adversaries removed. Now Jesus has defeated all of His enemies but not yet have they been destroyed. In other words we live in the now of the assured victory of Christ but the not yet of the consummation of that victory – in us, upon us, through us and in the world to bring us to a new heavens and a new earth and the heavenly Jerusalem that will come down from heaven and God will be with His people and His people will be with Him. We will have the consummation.

Secondly, the Judgment will bring vindication. The Bible says we are to always be ready to give an account of the hope that is within us and we are to do so with gentleness, sanctifying Christ as Lord in our hearts and do so that in that Day, those under His Judgment will have to glorify God for what is displayed and affirmed about you in that Day, even though they may do all they can to discount and discredit you in this day (I Peter 3:15). You are to live before Christ so that in that Day of the Judgment God’s grace, God’s people and His glory will be vindicated.

Thirdly, there will be conviction at the Judgment. Those who now laugh and mock the sacred things of God, in that Day, not with Godly repentance but with worldly sorrow, will be brought to their knees and will have to confess Christ as Lord. The conviction will be clear.

Fourthly, the assignment will be made for eternity on that Day. There are only two destinations. It will be the assignment of the lake of fire, the eternal death or the assignment of the new heavens and the new earth, the eternal life. Also, in the assignment will be the degrees of punishment in hell though all undergo a perfect torment in hell. The rewards will be given in heaven from the Judgment Seat. Why? This leads to my fifth point.

Fifthly, because at the Judgment Seat the believer’s judgment will not be about salvation but about stewardship. You will give an account on that Day on what you did with His church, with the sacred covenant blessings that God has given in His church – the vows, the oath, the sacraments, the pulpit ministry, the prayer life of God’s people. You will give an account of what you have done with the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. What verdict does a believer want to hear as they stand before Him, saved in the book of life? The believer will want to hear ‘well done, good and faithful servant – enter into the joy of your Master.’ Notice that none of us will ever be profitable stewards for anything we bring back to Jesus through Holy Spirit enabled obedience in ministry will be all because of what Jesus enabled us to do, but we can be found faithful before the Lord.

What are the purposes of the rewards? The purposes of the rewards at the Judgment of believers through their judgment of stewardship so that they receive the due recompense for what they have done in the body of Christ, will be given an assignment by God in heaven whereby God honors that and we will then in turn worship and praise Him with what we receive. Stewardship judgment is a moment for God to give you your worship material for eternity, just like God gives us resources so that we can bring before Him His tithes and offerings and the stewardship of praise because of what God has entrusted to us. We haven't brought anything to God that He didn't first give us but when we faithfully serve and give the Lord with stewardship then God begins to bless it where God gives it through us for Him. When we get to the Judgment He will give even more to us that we will use as stewards of our rewards to His praise and glory. What we do now in our giving will be similar to what we do there in what we are given. So at that Day we are getting worship material.

I'd like to illustrate this way. When I disciple and minister to people I like to meet at certain restaurants because one the food is pretty good, two the service is pretty good and three there is some space to have some conversation with them without people listening in. I love tipping and after I share the Gospel with someone I don't want to be stingy on the tip but I do it appropriately based on the service that is rendered as well. That waiter is getting a salary and they get that salary because I come there to get a meal. They wouldn't have a job if people didn't come to buy a meal. Then out of appreciation for their faithfulness in the job I gave them by purchasing the meal I then give them a tip, a reward at that time. This is why I don't like the phrase – gratuity required. It's not a gratuity if it's required and it robs me of doing a gratuity. So I want to acknowledge that.

That is the way it will be at the Judgment Seat. We will not have done a single thing that we would have been able to do if God had not done His work of grace in us. Whatever we did we didn't do anything with something we came up with. We did what we did for Him with what He gave us to do for Him, even the heart to do for Him. So when He rewards us that is His to affirm our stewardship and then we will use that as worship material for all of eternity.

In that Day it will be a day of identification. Here are the sheep and here are the goats. Here are those who are His people – the elect, believers – and here are those who are not His people – unbelievers. Jesus anticipated that day and says in Matthew 7:21–23, [21] *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. [22] On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and cast out demons in Your name, and do many mighty works in Your name?’ [23] And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.’* That Day will be a day of identification and clarification.

There are some that you and I think are sheep because it is pretty easy to fool us but on that Day it will be exposed that they are not. Sometimes it gets exposed here but on that Day it will be clear. He will even amass the evidences – the evidence of unbelief and the evidences of belief. That is not what saved them that was the evidence that will affirm His verdict and confirms His glory. It will affirm and vindicate them. At the same time what they were shamed and mocked in He will not affirm for His glory in that Day and He will affirm what they have done and He will affirm and expose those who do not know Him. If you could get to works by heaven those would have made – did we not do these things in Your name – but He will say I never knew you. Oh they had a religious work life but it wasn't for Him, the Savior for it was for themselves as thinking they could save themselves by those deeds and they never do it.

This is a Day everyone will encounter. Hebrews 9:27 says [27] *it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.* The number one question is are you in the books or are you in the Book (of life)? If you are in the books you will be assigned to the lake of fire according with the degree of punishment for all eternity. If you are in the book of life you will receive the worship material based on your stewardship to praise and glorify Him for all eternity with all the blessings of what Scripture has given us. There will be no more mourning, no more temptations, no more sin, no more consequences, no more sickness, no more death, no more dying but the Lamb will be with His people forever. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word. Thank You Father for unfolding for us in the Scripture these glorious truths. Now clearly there is room for Your people to have differing convictions or differing insights or be wrestling through trying to get clarity but the things we can know we have affirmed here – that Jesus is coming, then comes the Judgment Seat, everyone will be there, those in the books will be judged according to their deeds and there is none that can be saved, those who are in the book of life will have a stewardship judgment but our condemnation has already been removed through Jesus. We are in the Lamb's book of life eternal. Father, until that Day comes help us as Your people be found faithful. Help us to go to others so that they might be written in the Lamb's book of life. Then help us to serve You, certainly never profitably and certainly never perfectly, but intentionally and purposefully so in that Day we will be found faithful and hear 'well done thou good and faithful servant.' I pray this in Jesus' Name, Amen.