

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ Believers in Jesus Christ have an incredible future to look forward to! Brainstorm together for a few minutes about how great heaven will be by completing these statements:
The greatest thing about heaven is that I won't have to...
In heaven I'll be able to... In heaven there will be no...
Someone I'm looking forward to meeting in heaven is...
Something I'm looking forward to doing in heaven is...
- ❖ Review 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. Believers who build the wrong things into their lives will "suffer loss" but will be saved. What are some of the things we build into our lives now that will be "burned up?" What are some of the things that will last? What kind of "loss" do you think we'll suffer?
- ❖ Was there a new or surprising idea in this message? Was there something that help clear up truth for you? Is there a truth you'd like to understand better?
- ❖ Review the points of "Living this day for that day." How do you determine what's "best?" If your group has time, see Paul's words in Romans 14 about making decisions about what we do. What principles do you find there to guide you?
- ❖ Read Matthew 25:31-46. How do the words of Jesus here relate to being saved by grace, not by works? What do you notice in these verses about love? What does it tell you matters to God in how we live?
- ❖ In what way would you like the truth of the Day of Judgment to have a greater impact on your daily life? What truth will you take away from this message to help do just that?

Bible Versions used: KJV-King James; NKJV-New King James; NIV-New International; NCV-New Century; TLB-Living Bible; NLT-New Living Translation; MSG-The Message; GW-God's Word; TEV-Today's English; CEV-Contemporary English; NAS - New American Standard; NJB-New Jerusalem Bible; HCSB-Holman Christian Standard; Phi-Phillips Translation; Amp-Amplified Bible; NRSV-New Revised Standard

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FOUNDATIONS

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"Preparing for Your Final"

Ecclesiastes 11:9; 12:14 (NIV) "Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment...For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."

The coming Day of Judgment

Revelation 20:11-12, 15 (NIV) Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books... Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

* It's _____, _____, _____,
and _____!

Can judgment coexist with grace?

Psalms 130:3-4 (NIV) "If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared."

* It will be _____.

John 5:24 (NAS) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

Romans 8:1, 30-34 (NIV) There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

* It _____ our _____.

Romans 14:10-12 (NIV) We will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God." So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

* It isn't _____, but _____ us.

Revelation 22:12 (NIV) "I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (NIV) Each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

□ A massive _____!

Jude 1:24-25 (NIV) To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

□ The freedom _____!

1 Corinthians 4:4-5 (NIV) Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

□ Seeing _____.

□ The _____ achieved.

□ Celebrating _____!

Living today for that day

1. Be _____.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (NIV) So we make it our goal to please him... For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

2. Give yourself _____.

3. Make _____ your aim.

Malachi 3:16 (NIV) Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.

4. Live _____!

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13 (NCV) "I may speak in different languages of people or even angels... I may have the gift of prophecy. I may understand all the secret things of God and have all knowledge, and I may have faith so great I can move mountains ... I may give away everything I have, and I may even give my body as an offering to be burned. But I gain nothing if I do not have love... Three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love."

Scriptures for further study

Matthew 12:36 (NAS) "I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment."

Romans 3:19 (NIV) Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

Luke 12:48 (NIV) "The one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. 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."

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (NIV) "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat... The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' "No," he answered, "... Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'... The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels... so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

Matthew 13:47-50 (NIV) "The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."