

If Jesus Should Come Back Tomorrow

Would you be ready today if Jesus should come back tomorrow? We are to live our lives today as though Jesus would come back tomorrow. Be ready at all times—living right, thinking right and doing right.

We must be alert at all times against sin, because we do not know which day our Lord is coming (Matt. 24:42). We are continually warned in God's word to be on guard against <u>sin</u>. Then, these sins are listed in Luke 21:34, which include being weighted down with dissipation. Webster's Dictionary says dissipation is: wasteful expenditure of time (shop 'til you drop); free indulgence in drinking (drunkenness); riotous living; the cares of this life; the worries of life (Matt. 13:22). God's word warns that if these things are in your life, that day could come upon you suddenly, like a trap (Luke 21:34). Yes, the day of the Lord will come when mankind will least expect it.

There is a test coming upon the whole world very soon that is from God. Only those who persevere steadily and faithfully, and keep and perform Jesus' words will be spared from that hour of testing (Rev. 3:10). The Lord wants to know who will be faithful and endure to the end and who will not. He wants to know who will serve Him and who will not (Mal. 3:18). He wants to know who will be the sheep and who will remain as the goats—<u>who will serve others</u> and who will not. The Prophet Daniel was consistent and steadfast and faithful in his walk with God. In a prophecy concerning the last days, it states that every one of Daniel's people (people who are faithful like

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Daniel) will be rescued (Dan. 12:1; Prov. 11:8, 21). What are we to be faithful in? Faithful in giving, (Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:6-8) faithful in studying God's word so you are approved (2 Tim. 2:15 KJV) and faithful in prayer (Luke 21:36 KJV; Eph. 6:11-18).

'All will go well for those who remain faithful to righteousness.'

All will go well for those who remain faithful to <u>righteousness</u> (Is. 3:10). The Lord will not cause the righteous to hunger (Prov. 10:3; 13:25).

Because Jesus said the gospel of the kingdom would be preached and published in all the world for a witness, I believe some people will take the message soberly and take warning and change their way of living to that of Jesus' Way (Matt. 24:14). They will begin to study (not read) God's word daily. They will cry out in private to the Lord to save them and show them the Way to live so that they might please Him each day.

'The others will wait until it's too late.'

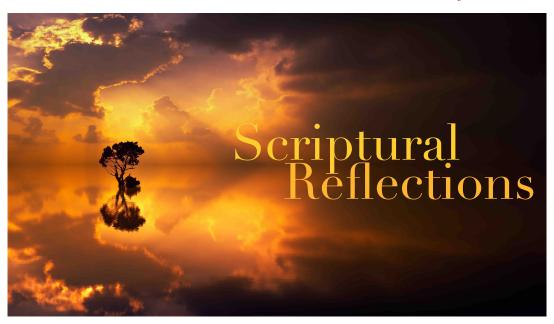
The others will wait until it's too late—when they see the sign of the Son of Man coming in the sky (Matt. 24:30). They will be the ones who will hide themselves in caves because they know the Lord is coming, and His wrath is for them (Rev. 6:15-16; Is. 2:19; Hosea 10:8; Is. 24:6; Luke 23:30).

Yet, verse 17 of Revelation 6 says: For the great day of their wrath has come. Whose wrath? Those hiding in the caves. The Scripture ends with the question, "Who is able to stand?" Both Psalm 24:3-6 and Psalm 50:22-23 give the answer.

'Repent! How? Be a daily doer of the word.'

In conclusion, it all comes down to this. <u>Repent!</u> How? Be a daily doer of the word (Psalm 34:11-14; James 1:22). Fulfill the Scriptures that the righteous fulfill, or you will automatically be fulfilling the Scriptures of the wicked (Mal. 3:18; Matt. 25:41).

Now you know how to get ready today, should the Lord return tomorrow.□



Reflect on the word of God in a whole new way...here!

True followers of Jesus Christ long ago were constantly in prayer, which means they talked to God throughout the day (1 Thess. 5:17; Col. 4:2-3). When they were not talking to Him, they were talking about Him and His Ways. There were specific times when they would sit down and pray to Him quietly. Those times were in the morning and before they retired for the day. Their morning prayer would go something like this: Use me today as Your servant, Lord. Send me those who are in need. Teach me to imitate You. Help me to love You, to serve You and to walk in Your Ways. Help me to be pleasing to You throughout the day in all I think, do, and say.

'Use me today as Your servant, Lord. Send me those who are in need. Teach me to imitate You. Help me to love You, to serve You and to walk in Your Ways. Help me to be pleasing to You throughout the day in all I think, do, and say.'

They studied the word of God daily for the express purpose of pleasing God (2 Tim. 2:15) and knowing more about His Ways and His wonderful Will (Eph. 5:17; 1 John 2:17). It was their meditation day and night (Psalm 1:2). They knew that the full armor of God was prayer, Bible study and glorifying God daily on earth as He lives in heaven by doing good works (Eph. 6:11, 13-18). They knew how God lives in heaven and they imitated Him daily while here on earth (Eph. 5:1). They knew He was the helper of the blind and the lame, the widow and the orphan, the aged, the sick and the lowly. So they helped the Lord by helping these people. Thus they were imitating God and were friends of God or servants of the Most High (John 15:14).

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He lives in heaven by doing good works.'

As an example of this, let's say there lived a man who had many children and servants. He taught them all to please God by practicing righteousness daily and practicing honesty in all their dealings with their fellow man as well as among themselves (Gen. 18:19). Would you say this would be pleasing to God? Would you say these people would be humble servants of God (Luke 1:48; James 4:10)? Would you say that these people would be slaves of righteousness for God (Rom. 6:18)? Would you say that those who practiced such things on a daily basis for God would be holy and blameless and perfect in His sight (Gen. 6:9; Job 1:1)?

'Would you say that those who practiced such things on a daily basis for God would be holy and blameless and perfect in His sight?'

Are you beginning to see what God requires of any person in regard to repentance, before He will forgive their sins and seal them in a bag (Job 14:17)? Job knew if he served others and helped God in heaven by helping others who were in need, God would not hold any of his sins against him (Job 29:12-18; 14:16-17). He knew he would be in the resurrection of the righteous and God considered him His servant (Job 14:12, 14-15; John 5:29). He said he was blameless and upright, which meant his sins were not being held against him. Job feared God, which means he respected God, and that is what made him want to help the needy (Psalm 25:14). Doing good for God is how he sought God (Rom. 3:10-13; Psalm 14:2-4; 53:1-3; Jer. 22:15-16). As a result of this, Job was turning away from evil.

Satan is so clever in manipulating the word of God. Can you see now why people are told that nothing is required for salvation and they do not

need any kind of good works to be saved? He even tried to get Christ to kill Himself by misquoting Scripture (Matt. 4:6-7). Satan's ministers have many on the broad road that leads to destruction (Matt. 7:13-14). Why? Because the multitude who call themselves Christians remain worthless for good works. They are not overcoming their evil natures by doing good for God. By being worthless for good works they deny the Lord. That's exactly what the word of God says in Titus 1:16. It only stands to reason if Jesus Christ is purifying a peculiar people for Himself, who are zealous for good works, then the majority must be on the broad road that leads to destruction (Titus 2:14). The narrow Way, which very few find, is the truth about works and what part it plays in overcoming our evil natures. It is the Way to imitate God and His Son Jesus Christ. It is the Way to seek God.

'True worshipers of God of long ago knew that the word worship meant serve and the word believe meant live, obey, put your trust in, and have faith.'

Can you see why the absolute truth of your Bible is not preached? Who would not want you to glorify God in heaven daily with good works as Jesus commanded His true followers to do-Satan or Jesus (Matt. 5:16; Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:8)? Satan, of course. Why? Because then God cannot crush Satan and put him under your heel (Rom. 16:20). So now you can see why there are so very few doers of the word and the rest remain deluded. True worshipers of God of long ago knew that the word worship meant serve and the word believe meant live, obey, put your trust in, and have faith. These examples are all throughout God's Word in Scripture (Gen. 15:6, 22:18; 26:5). Can you see what James was saying when he said faith without good works for God daily is dead, being alone, and

that a person's faith is made complete by his good works for God (James 2:17, 22)? In the past, the only reason true disciples came together was to provoke and stimulate one another to more good works and love (Heb. 10:24-25).

'The whole Bible was meant to prepare true disciples for every good work, making them doers of the word who will be blessed in all they do.'

It just isn't happening out there, is it? The blood of Jesus Christ was shed for all, should they repent and seek God by living a life of righteousness. Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart (2 Tim. 2:22). Those righteous works will perfect your faith. True disciples are being prepared for every good work. The whole Bible was meant to prepare true disciples for every good work, making them doers of the word who will be blessed in all they do (2 Tim. 2:21; 3:16-17; James 1:22, 25).

'Someone who walks righteously is someone who practices what is right daily for the glory of God.'

Now, our Lord Jesus Christ commands us to have a good day every day, as well as to think only good thoughts (1 Peter 3:10-13). How can this be done? He tells us to shut our eyes from looking on evil. That means evil on TV, evil in movies and books and evil in sports. Read Isaiah 33:15. We are to keep our eyes and ears from hearing about bloodshed. This could even include newspapers and television programs. Someone who walks righteously is someone who practices what is right daily for the glory of God hates a perverted mouth, says God. Proverbs 8:13, or people who take God's name in vain (Psalm 139:20; Ex. 20:7). The Lord is

righteous and He loves righteousness (Psalm 11:7; 145:17). That is why God loves and blesses a person who practices righteousness at all times (Psalm 106:3), and He teaches them His Way (Psalm 25:8-9). We turn from evil by doing good (Psalm 37:27; Rom. 12:21; 1 Peter 3:10-11). How blessed are those who help the needy and poor. Look at what God says He will do for you (Psalm 41:1-3).

'Righteous acts come from righteous thoughts, the same place that righteous words come from, for the mouth speaks out of the abundance of the heart. God wants you to make yourself a brand new heart.'

How simple, God wants us to be good by doing good. Is there really any other way to be good other than by doing good? No! That is why Paul was constantly telling those who believed in God to be careful to engage in good works (Titus 3:8). Righteous acts come from righteous thoughts, the same place that righteous words come from, for the mouth speaks out of the abundance of the heart. God wants you to make yourself a brand new heart (Ezek. 18:31; Rom. 2:29; Luke 8:15; Joel 2:13; Ezek. 36:26).

'Repent by turning to God and performing works, good works, for reasons of true repentance!' In this article, you have been given many examples from your Bible on how to please God (Prov. 8:32-33). An angel of the Lord said, "Go your way, stand and speak the whole message of this life," the whole purpose of God (Acts 5:20; 20:27). What is the whole truth? What is the whole message, the complete truth? Repent by turning from your wicked ways, every one of you (Acts 3:26). Repent by turning to God and performing works, good works, for reasons of true repentance (Acts 26:20 NIV)!



Graduation Day



In order for one to graduate, one must finish the course. As the Apostle Paul stated in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith."

Webster's Dictionary defines "graduate" as:

1) **One who has completed a course of training in some subject**. [The subject we are talking about is the words of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning the doctrine conforming one to godliness, or the truth, which is true knowledge according to godliness (1 Tim. 6:3; Titus 1:1).]

2) **To temper, to modify or to improve by degrees.** [As a disciple of Jesus Christ begins to live to the Spirit and gradually put to death the deeds of the flesh, which are not pleasing to God, he improves by degrees as he continues to temper and control his body, and thus, modifies his nature to that of Christ. He is in a state of continual improvement (Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:16, 13, 24).]

3) **To pass by degrees—to change gradually.** [A disciple of Jesus Christ is constantly <u>disciplining</u> <u>himself for the purpose of godliness</u> (1 Tim. 4:7). As he does this, he is tested and refined by God. These tests are the same as degrees. If you fail the test, then you must take the test over until you pass the degree. The change in a disciple's life is

gradual, but the changes are causing steady, spiritual growth.]

4) Having completed a course in training and having acquired proficiency in it. [Yes, disciples of Jesus Christ were constantly admonished to be complete (2 Cor. 13:9, 11; Col. 1:28; 2:10). In this course of religious training in righteousness, God's word (the Bible) was their textbook. Their training was to adequately equip them (make them proficient) for every good work, like Jesus Christ their perfect example (2 Tim. 3:16-17).]

It is Jesus, then, who perfects our faith through our tests, trials and <u>suffering</u>. This is how we learn obedience to God (Heb. 5:8). **This is how our faith is made perfect (complete) through daily obedience to our Lord** (Heb. 5:9; 1 Cor. 3:7, 13; Col. 2:19). We do the practicing; God does the perfecting and causes our spiritual growth.

The Apostle Paul was constantly pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:10-14). **The Apostle Paul died to the flesh by continually fighting his flesh by doing only good** (1 Cor. 15:31). Paul kept his body in subjection to the Lord. In other words, he was forcing himself into the kingdom of God by disciplining himself continually to conform his life to the Will of God (Luke 16:16; 1 Tim. 4:7). He was constantly striving to enter the narrow door or gate which very few find (Luke 13:24; Matt. 7:14).

Graduation day, for one who follows Christ, is the day you take your last breath. Whether a person has been dead two thousand years or one year, the very next instant of consciousness will be that of the resurrection, according to God's word (John 5:28-29; Psalm 17:15).

Let us be of the same mind as Paul and fight the good fight of faith and finish the course, so we will be at graduation day with the Apostle Paul. Keep the faith—Jesus' faith. Live for Jesus every day. Dear Whole Wheat Readers,

About a month ago while at work, I started to feel tremendous pain in my chest. I wasn't sure what it was but decided to drive home, hoping rest would relieve it. I had had a long day at work the day before, and little sleep that night. On the way home the pain increased and I drove to the emergency room instead. On arrival the doctor said I was having a heart attack. Before they wheeled me into the operating room they asked me if I wanted to be revived, if I died on the operating table. I had to think about it. *Was I ready to meet my Maker?*

Being human, we will all face an end to our physical life, at some point. Will we be ready when that moment comes? The quote from our founder, "<u>Whole Wheat exists to make ready a</u> <u>people prepared to meet the Lord</u>" makes me think (Luke 1:17). It's one thing to prepare yourself, yet another when you are faced with the end of your life.

This issue of *Whole Wheat* is about how to live and prepare for eternal life, which is life indeed (1 Tim. 6:19). It shares how we can be ready to meet our Lord, either by end of life or when He returns. Wouldn't it be wonderful for every reader to have full assurance and confidence to meet our Lord? As an example, Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy, "I have kept the faith... there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness" (2 Tim. 4:7,8). Did I have that assurance when the doctor asked me if I wanted to be revived on the operating table?

The Bible warns God's people that His return will come upon them like a trap if they are not

ready (Luke 21:34). Our lead article, "*If Jesus Should Come Back Tomorrow*" challenges all of us to be in a state of readiness. We do not know when we will reach our end, and where we will be in our life. Therefore, we must make each day count.

35 years ago, I could have lost my life through a serious car accident but instead, *because of it*, I was set on a road of seeking God. A few years later I met our founder, Ron, who taught me, *"The Secret Formula To Being A True Follower."* That formula that separates the sheep from the goats. I learned the precious message of *"God's Secret Ingredient."* An ingredient we must use daily in our lives, in order to be called sons of God. This is all in preparation for *"Graduation Day."* That glorious day when God's people will receive their crown of eternal life (James 1:12).

So how did I face my own death's door you might be wondering? In much the same attitude as Paul faced his in Philippians 1:21-24. I felt in my heart an assurance, that I had done my best to live God's Way of life. The sting of death was not there (1 Cor. 15:55). Yet, if I were to live, I knew the race was not finished and I still must press on towards the prize and hope in our Lord, as many have done in the past for our example (Phil. 3:14; Heb 11:1-40). I must press on to that wonderful day of graduation and am thankful God has given me another day to serve Him.

In His Love,

Scott



God's Secret Ingredient

God's secret ingredient is likened to salt in Matthew 5:13. It is also likened to oil in the lamps of the ten virgins (Matt. 25:3).

these qualities (or godly character) are yours and are constantly increasing, you will not remain unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:8;

Col. 1:10).

is

directions on how

to enter the eternal

kingdom of our Lord,

(2 Peter 1:10-11:

Luke 17:21—King

James Version, New

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What is this secret incredient that has long puzzled Bible scholars? Charity. It's necessarv to understand what charity is. Charity is giving, caring, sharing, forgiving, loving, serving, thinking only good and doing only good.

Charity is also perfecting the fruit of God's spirit in our

bodies, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness and self-control-there is no law against such things (Gal. 5:22-23). Anyone who is lacking these things is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins (2 Peter 1:9). If cannot be in the kingdom that is coming. Practice does indeed make perfect. You do the practicing-God does the perfecting. This is the repentant life, and this is God's secret ingredient!

