Worthy to Stand Before Him!

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Our only desire is being worthy to stand before the Lord Jesus when He returns to this earth. The spiritual condition of the world worsens every day, and at the present time it is *opposite* to what it *will* be when Jesus establishes His kingdom on earth.

An angel comes down Revelation 20:2 "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled."

The condition of the world will *then* be what God has always *wanted* it to be from the beginning. With Satan bound for one-thousand years, Eden-like conditions will prevail on earth. There is a Book to be opened in Heaven, and only Jesus is worthy to open it. Our name must be *written* in that Book of Life, if we want to be among those who are *worthy to stand before Him* and to *reign* with Him for one-thousand years. Revelation 5:9 "And 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; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

Anyone *could* escape the divine wrath that is coming, and *could* be among those who reign on earth, while Satan is bound in Hell. There is a plan to follow, however, for anyone of any nation to be worthy and be part of God's kingdom. The instructions are in the Bible.

God is no respecter of persons—so it does not matter if we are rich or poor; humble or proud; well educated or no education; a king or a queen; a prime minister or president—everyone will stand before Jesus at the white throne of judgment. John 3:18 "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

It is all about *believing* that Jesus came to *live* on earth; to *die* on a cross for the sins of the world, and to *give* everyone the *opportunity* and the *invitation*, during this one life, to *believe* on His sacrifice of atonement. And, after believing, to then place a trusting *faith* on the cleansing Blood of Jesus. We are encouraged that God is *no respecter* of persons—anyone can be forgiven.

The Bible says that books are opened—including the Book of Life. Scripture does not give details about what is written in the books, but they would certainly include the Ten Commandments. The man who wanted eternal life was told Matthew 19:17 "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

The Commandments were not given to *make* us righteous, but to show us that we are *not* righteous in our sinful condition—we all need conversion by faith in Christ. The Commandments were

given to guide us and show us how to be righteous by trusting on the Righteous One. Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

The commandments were given Romans 3:19 "*That every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*" The Commandments open our *eyes* to understand *God's* true character and righteousness. We all fall woe-fully short and realize that only by *faith* and a continuing *trust* on the Righteous Son of God, will we ever be *worthy to stand before Him!* 

Some may think they can obey the Ten Commandments by their own determination, or can be *inwardly righteous* by *outwardly good deeds*, but if just one command is disobeyed, they fall short. James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Only faith in Jesus can make us worthy.

Revelation 20:12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

The other Book might be the record of everything that we have ever said or done. Ecclesiastes 12:14 "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." That is something to ponder in that one book is every conversation we have ever had; every email we ever wrote; every text message we sent; every complaint muttered under our breath; every webpage ever visited—all those things we hoped no one would ever find out about—are all recorded!

Although that *could* cause more than a *little* concern, the price that had to be paid for all sins to be erased, has already *been* paid, so we would *not* have to face judgment—if we *keep* our faith and trust on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus.

Colossians 2:13 "You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record that contained the charges against us [Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us]. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross."

While the Great White Throne judgment is taking place, those who were ready by keeping their faith in the Blood of Christ, will be on the restored earth *with* Jesus—enjoying a thousand years with Him and others. Being *with* Jesus is all that matters.

Although often misunderstood—God does not *send* anyone to Hell—and if anyone is so unfortunate to end there, it is because of their *own* rebellion, unbelief, and rejection of the only Way out—real faith in the real Messiah. The Lake of Fire was created for the *devil* and his demons—no one else is supposed to go there, but by their own wrong choices—millions do!

The Lake of Fire is *self-chosen*—those who end up there have *never accepted* the *only* way to escape that horrible fate. Everyone *receives* what they *choose*—either to trust on the *Blood* of Christ and be *with* Him forever; or to trust on the *plans* of the world and be *apart* from Him forever.

It has been said there are only *two kinds* of people in the end—those who say *to* God: *Thy will be done*; and those to whom God eventually says: Thy will *was* done. Everyone who is in the Lake of Fire *chose* it—by *not* choosing the only way to escape it. John 3:17 "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. 18 There is no judgment awaiting those who trust him. But those who do not trust him have already been judged for not believing in the only [begotten] Son of God."

God is *no respecter of persons*, so anyone can escape the wrath that will come on a wicked, self-

centered, and sin-saturated world. The plan to escape is written in the Book, and it is available in thousands of languages so there would be no one saying they did not know.

To the one who was given *five talents* and saw them increase to *five more* by accepting God's Truth and seeing spiritual fruit in his life—responding to people and situations in a scriptural way and showing a right example for others—was commended by the Master.

Matthew 25:21 "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

The one who was given *two talents* also realized a 100% increase—he *had two* and he gained *two more*. He showed *spiritual fruit* and had *increased* in his *knowledge* of God—therefore he would be *worthy to stand* before the Master. He was faithful in *living* the Truth God had revealed to him. Matthew 25:23 "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

No one escapes meeting the Lord Jesus—and they *will* meet Him as their *Lord*—or they will meet Him as their *Judge*. By living God's Truth seriously, we can meet Him with overflowing *joy* and *gratitude*; or we will meet Him in serious *dread* and eternal *regret*.

It is the most *important* choice anyone will ever make. And there is no reason not to make the *right* one, because God is *no respecter of persons*—*all* are invited, *all* can be accepted, and *all* can enter Paradise—by a trusting faith in Him.

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Jesus is waiting at the door of everyone's heart and *listening* for a response to His invitation. If there is *any willingness* or *sincerity* in a person's heart; if there is any *opening* of the door to allow God's Truth to enter, Jesus comes in and sits down to dinner with them.

The disciples said to the Master Luke 13:23 "Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, 24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."

Since so few are willing to *trust* an unseen God for things in this life, Jesus is telling them that it takes a real *commitment* and faithful *trust* on the shed Blood of Christ to be *worthy to stand before Him!* 

He continued that the time will come when there will be no more opportunities to give our life to Him; no more second chances! Luke 13:25 "When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are."

Jesus did not know *them* because they never knew *Him*—at least not enough to give their *life* to Him completely and without compromise. They did not *know* Him enough to *believe* what He told them about daily trust on Him for everyday issues—health and healing; food and finances; and about not avenging wrongs, but forgiving everyone of *everything*! colossians 3:13 *"Forgive as the Lord forgave you."* It is the only way to be <u>Worthy</u> to Stand Before Him!

> www.fcgchurch.org PO Box 24283 Philadelphia, PA 19120 fcgchurch1@gmail.com #3075 1008 23P

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