

Preparation in Progress!



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VIRTUAL

We prepare for many things—vacations, motor trip, a building project, or other such matters, and we know what we have to *do* to get ready for the event or activity—but the most important *preparation* we will ever do, and the most important *event* we will ever attend, is made possible by allowing *God* to get us ready for the *return* of His Son!

Eternal life is so *vitally* important that we *must* know the conditions—and the *preparation* needed to enter that marvelous environment. We must not be *distracted* by “*The cares of this life*” Luke 21:34; we are to ³⁶ “*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*”

The world is *not* a work in progress, and they have *no* concern “*To escape all these things that shall come to pass,*” nor will they be able to “*Stand before the Son of man.*” Being with *God forever* is the goal—and the other is *being with the devil forever*! It is not possible to describe the *majesty* of Heaven nor the *horrors* of Hell—but they are both *real places* for *real people*.

Satan’s intention is to prevent us from entering Heaven by destroying our *faith* in Christ. The devil will use *anyone, anything*, or even any religious *teaching*—if it results in *rejecting* our faith. We thank God every moment for revealing the multitude of delusions today. Most religious messages contain *no teaching* that would prepare

anyone for Heaven, because they do not teach about *faith* and *trust* on the living God for things in this present life.

If this life is the *only* place to be *prepared* for the next, because it is the *only* place where spiritual *growth* can take place, then we must allow God to *teach* us what we need to *know*, and to *change* our heart to what it must *be*! God remains *unchanged* Malachi 3:6; James 1:17, and the Atonement still *stands*—Hebrews 13:8 “*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*” What God did for those in the Bible, He will do for us today—but it takes the same *believing faith* in Him to *receive* the same promises from Him.

The *righteous* enter God’s kingdom and the *righteous* trust in faith on the atoning Blood of Christ—for physical healing and divine protection—without human means, weapons, vaccines, or drugs. Real *faith* in God includes real *answers* to prayer—for finances, peace in our home, spiritual guidance, and for everything else. *False* teaching is from *Satan* to prevent our preparation for Heaven!

There are *three qualifications* for eternal life: a *new birth*; a *surrender* of our life to God; and *spiritual growth* by the Holy Spirit’s teaching. Step **one** John 3:3 “*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” This new birth includes spiritual growth. The *old* heart attitude will *not* trust God for anything; it will *not* meet things right, so it must be replaced with a *new* attitude that *will trust God* in faith for everything; and *will meet things right*.

Step **two** is an uncompromising *commitment* of our life to God—His *will* is to be done and His *Word* to be followed with every detail of life. This surrendering of our life to God *removes* the control of the devil, and *replaces* it with the power of the Spirit. God has been so very merciful, so we

Romans 12:1 “*Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.*”

Once we have committed our life to God, we must *believe* that we *have* the Holy Spirit. We always give good gifts to our children Luke 11:13, so “*How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*” When we *allow* God to *transform* our heart, *then* we will Romans 12:2 “*Prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*”

No one will enter the *kingdom of God*, unless they follow the *Word of God*, by faith in the *Son of God*. Matthew 7:21 “*Not every one who says to me, ‘Master, Master,’ will enter the Kingdom of the Heavens, but only those who are obedient to my Father who is in Heaven.*” This surrender to the will of God is vital, but many churches do *not* teach it, nor do they carry *through* with it.

Step **three** is a most important step in our preparation—it is to *believe* God and *follow through* with New Testament teaching. Jesus explained John 16:13 “*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth,*” because the NT explains God’s Truth and His will concerning every aspect of our life here on earth. We must *believe* and *obey* the Scriptures just as they are written. There is not one thing written in the New Testament that is not totally necessary for our spiritual *benefit* here, and for our living *hope* for eternal life hereafter—we are a *work in progress*!

It is tragic to see the way Satan has convinced the *world* and even many *Christians* to think they will get to Heaven *without* following the Word or *without* doing the will of God. This error has *robbed* them of what Jesus died to *give* them in this life; and it has *hindered* and *stalled* their preparation for Heaven!

Jesus lived on earth—not only to give us a *hope* for eternal life, but also to give us what we *need* in this life. The Holy Spirit was later given,

so that we could have the *power* to live a life of *obedient faith* and *trust* on God—Who does not ask us to understand or obey His Word by our *own* ability, but *He* provides the *understanding* and the *power*—if we are willing to learn.

Eternal life in Heaven is possible only when we are *scriptural* in every aspect of life—which is a willingness to follow New Testament *teaching* of trusting faith in God through the atoning Blood of Christ. The Bible is our *instruction* manual, and God is just asking us to *read* it, to *heed* it, and to allow His Spirit to John 16:13 “*Guide you into all truth.*” Everything touching our life will *teach* a valuable spiritual *lesson*—if we are *willing* to learn them.

We would be deceiving *ourselves* if we just *read* God’s Word but did *not apply* the principles of trust on Him. James 1:21-22 “*Ridding yourselves, therefore, of all that is vile and of the evil influences which prevail around you, welcome in a humble spirit the Message implanted within you, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves obedient to the Message, and do not be mere hearers of it, imposing a delusion upon yourselves.*”

The actions are *getting rid* of something and *proving* we are obedient—23-25 “*For if any one listens but does not obey, he is like a man who carefully looks at his own face in a mirror. Although he has looked carefully at himself, he goes away, and has immediately forgotten the sort of man he is. But he who looks closely into the perfect Law—the Law of freedom—and continues looking, he, being not a hearer who forgets, but an obedient doer, will as the result of his obedience be blessed.*”

Jesus gave many instructions on living the Christian life. Matthew 7:24 “*Every one who hears these my teachings and acts upon them [obeys Me; doeth them] will be found to resemble a wise*

man who builds his house upon rock.” It is *tragic* that so many who *claim* to be Christians do not *know* the teaching of that marvelous sermon, and they know even *less* about *doing* what Jesus said.

Eternal security people teach that the only part for Christians today is the apostle Paul’s writings—everything else is *before* the cross and belongs to the Law. When the young ruler asked Jesus Luke 18:18 “*What shall I do to inherit eternal life?*” Jesus told him to keep or obey the Law—including 22 “*Sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.*”

A lawyer asked what he should do in preparing for Heaven. Luke 10:25-28 Jesus said, “*What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?*” *So he answered and said, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”*

“*You have answered rightly*” Jesus replied; “*Do this and you will live;*” Adding John 14:23-24, “*If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching; he who does not love me will not obey my teaching.*” We always *accept* the advice of those in whom we have confidence, and we *reject* the words of those in whom we have *no* confidence.

It is just *reasonable* then that if we had confidence in *God*, we would accept His *advice* and *do* what He says. Eternal life is possible only if we love God more than any *thing*, any *person*, or any *interest* on earth. If we truly *loved* God, we would *accept* the *teaching* of His Holy Word.

Every *human plan* of the *world* is opposite to the *divine plan* in the *Word*. Those two ways are opposite—but *so are the destinations!* The ways of the *fallen* nature are inspired by Satan, and the ways of the *divine* nature are inspired by God—they are opposite. God says *pray* for your enemies Matthew 5:44; Satan says *get back* at your enemies.

God says to store your treasure in *heaven*, and the devil says to store your money in *banks* on earth.

If we have more *confidence* in the advice from fallen man and the devil, than we do in the advice from the Word of God and the Scriptures, we would *never* be *ready* for the Rapture! 1 John 2:4-5 “*He who professes to know Him, and yet does not obey His commands, is a liar, and the truth has no place in his heart. But whoever obeys His Message, in him love for God has in very deed reached perfection.*”

Anyone who really loves God 6 “*Is himself also bound to live as He lived—by faith and trust every day on a loving and faithful Father. Jesus is called the Word, and He obeyed the Word in everything, because those Words came from the Father.* Revelation 19:13 “*And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*”

The *nature* of Jesus is revealed in the *teaching* of the New Testament—which is the true character of God, and is the *attitude* we must have—if we want our *preparation* to *progress* to *readiness!* Philippians 2:5 “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*” He was *humble* and *willing* to obey the *Father*—and if we are *humble* and *willing* to follow the *Word*, God will get us *ready* for His Kingdom! Our *preparation* is in *progress*—don’t let the devil *stop* it!



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