

Preparation in Progress!



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With the spiritual condition of the world what it is today, we must be sure that our *preparation* for the Kingdom *progresses* each day—and *that* is by meeting each situation in a scriptural way. Eternal life is so vitally important to everyone, that we *must* know the *conditions*, and the *preparation* necessary, for entering God's kingdom.

We must not allow ourselves to be distracted by "*The cares of this life*" Luke 21:34, or be distracted by any far-less important issue of life. Jesus warned Luke 21:36 "*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.*" We must be accounted *worthy* and to *escape* all these things.

Our only goal is to be in Heaven for ever. The other fate is the lake of fire prepared for the devil. It is not possible to describe both the *majesty* of Heaven; and the *horrors* of Hell—but they are *real places* for *real people*. Heaven is for those who *trust* God in believing faith; and Hell is for those who do *not* trust Him in rebellious unbelief.

Satan's intention is to prevent us from entering Heaven by destroying our faith in the Atonement of Christ. The devil will use anyone, anything, or any religious teaching to have us give up our faith. We thank God for revealing to us the huge number of delusions out there today,

because most religious messages contain no teaching that would prepare anyone for Heaven.

If this life is the *only* place where our *preparation can progress* to where we are ready for the next life, then we had better allow God to teach us what we need to know about changing our hearts and correcting our attitudes.

God has *not* changed 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.*" Whatever God did for believers in the *Bible* He will do for any believer *today*—but it takes the same believing faith *in God* to receive the same promised blessings *from God*.

Only the righteous enter the kingdom, but righteousness is a reality by real faith in the atonement Blood of Christ—for physical healing and divine protection—without human means, weapons, prescriptions, or drugs. Real faith in God includes real answers to prayer concerning finances, the home, spiritual enlightenment, and everything else. False teaching from Satan is designed to *hinder* our blessings here and to *impede* our readiness for Heaven later!

To qualify for Heaven, there must be a *new birth*; an uncompromising *surrender* of our will to God; and *spiritual growth* under the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said the *first* step was a new birth John 3:3, which enables *spiritual progress*. The *old* heart attitude *will not* meet things right and *will not* trust God right for anything—it must be replaced with a *new* heart attitude that *will* meet things right and *will trust God* right in faith for everything.

The *second* step is an uncompromising commitment of our life to God. His will is to be done and His Word to be followed regarding every detail of life. This uncompromising surrender enables God to *remove* the control of the devil, and to *replace* it with the power of the Spirit. God has

been merciful, so we Romans 12:1 "*Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.*"

We then *believe* that we *have* the Holy Spirit—once we have totally committed our life to God. If we give good gifts to our children Luke 11:13 "*How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*"—many times more, of course. When we allow God to transform our heart, *then* we can Romans 12:2 "*Prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*"

Jesus said that no one will enter the *kingdom of God* unless they follow the *Word of God* in faith on 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 people never heard about it, as many churches do *not* teach it; and if anyone *does* hear about it, most are *not willing* to carry through with it.

The *third* and most important step in our preparation for eternity, is to believe and follow through with the teaching of the New Testament. Jesus said John 16:13 "*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth,*" The New Testament explains God's Truth concerning every aspect of our life here on earth. We are to believe, accept, and obey the Scriptures as they are written—not for any merit, but only for our *preparation* by faith.

There is not one thing written in the New Testament that is not necessary for our spiritual benefit here, and our living hope for eternal life hereafter. It is tragic to see the way Satan has convinced so many Christians to believe that they will get to Heaven without following the Word and will of God in their life. This false belief has robbed them of everything Jesus died to give them here, and it has robbed them of that necessary preparation for eternity.

Jesus came to earth—not only to give us a *hope* for eternal life, but also to give us what we need in *this* life—as we long for the blessed hope! The Holy Spirit was given so we could have the power to live a life of obedient trust on God—God who does not ask us to understand or obey His Word by any ability of our own—as He provides the understanding and the power—we just make a choice to be *willing* to learn.

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

We would deceive *ourselves* if we just read God’s Word but did not carry through with what it teaches. 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.*”

To just read or listen but not carry through in obedience—imposes a delusion on our own selves. The apostle explains 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*”—or enlightened and given more knowledge.

Jesus taught vital truths on how to live the Christian life. Matthew 7:24 “*Every one who hears these my teachings and acts upon them will be found to resemble a wise man who builds his house upon rock.*” It is tragic that the majority of professed believers do not *know* the teaching of that marvelous sermon—and they know even *less* about *doing* what Jesus said.

False teaching of OSAS, says that the only part for Christians today is the apostle Paul’s writings—everything else is before the cross and belongs to the Law—but when the young ruler asked Jesus Luke 18:18, “*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*” Jesus said follow the Law or Commandments—including 22 “*Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven [financial trust]. Then come, follow me.*”

A lawyer asked Luke 10:25 “*Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*” 26 He said unto him, “*What is written in the law? how readest thou?*” 27 And he answering said, “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*” 28 And he said unto him, “*Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.*” And we know John 14:23-24, “*If anyone loves me [Jesus said], he will obey my teaching; he who does not love me will not obey my teaching.*”

We must love God more than any thing, any person, or any interest on earth. If we truly loved God we would have faith in Him, and we would accept the teaching of His Holy Word. We always accept the advice of those in whom we have confidence, and we reject the words of those in whom we do *not* have confidence. It is reasonable then that if we had confidence in God, we would *accept* His advice and *do* what He says.

Every *human plan* of the world is opposite to the *divine plan* in the Word. Those two ways are

opposite, because the ways of the fallen nature are inspired by the devil, and the Scriptures are inspired by God’s Spirit—they are polar opposites. 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*.

Anyone who has more confidence in the advice from fallen man and the devil, than they do in the advice from the Word of God and the Holy Scriptures, would never be ready for eternal life.

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 professes to love God 6 “*Is himself also bound to live as He lived—by faith and trust every day on a loving and faithful heavenly Father. Jesus obeyed the Scriptures in everything because Revelation 19:13 “He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”*”

The nature of Jesus is the true character of God, and it is the attitude *we* must have—if we want our *preparation* to *progress* and to be ready for eternity. Philippians 2:5 “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*” He was *humble, willing, and obedient* to the Father—so if we are *humble, willing, and obedient* to the Word, God will do the rest and our preparation will be complete!



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