

# Prepare to Meet Jesus!



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Allowing God to prepare us to meet Jesus at His sudden and unexpected return, is ever more vital for the believer. With the world becoming more dangerous and with horrible crimes being committed against so many so often, we *know* that *these* are the last days!

No one has all the time in the world—it is *later than we think!* Everyone is given this day to surrender their life totally to God for His will to be done in their life. We must *use* the time God has given us to be *ready* in a moment for His Son to return—maintaining a repentant attitude; being open to spiritual conviction; making corrections in attitudes as they are revealed; and asking Him to remove all *pride* from our heart.

The prophet said, “*I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel,*” Amos 4:11-12.

Our main concern every day is that God prepare us spiritually for His Son’s return every hour. Only God can prepare us for the rapture—so that we are not surprised or caught off-guard. Mark 13:32 “*But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. 33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*”

Being on-guard and watchful means being at peace with everyone—Hebrews 12:14 “*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.*” Satan wants to defile our conscience—having us be unprepared to meet Jesus.

Romans 13:11 “*Now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in [fornication] and [immorality], not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*”

Hell is a place of unquenchable fire, anguish, despair, and unrelenting pain—a place where our memory is still clear; where we have terrible remorse; a place of intense thirst, frustration, and agony. It is the eternal fate of anyone who did not allow God to prepare them—due to their stubbornness and desire for worldly pleasures.

Those who end in the Lake of Fire are—Satan, the Antichrist, the false prophet, fallen angels, Judas Iscariot, and all unbelievers who refused to believe and refused to trust God while they had the chance. Revelation 21:8 “*The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters,*

*and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*”

We must always be truthful because telling one lie defines a liar—not telling the truth and not repenting could send us there. God is holy and pure—every sin is offensive to Him; that is why His Son shed His Blood to cleanse our hearts and purify our soul for His kingdom. Everyone must believe that; put their faith in His sacrifice; and then trust in His resurrection power continually every day.

If we ever asked the question—Is it necessary to obey the Word of God to be ready to meet Jesus—the apostle said that those who oppose God’s Word and reject His Truth will face His wrath. 2 Thessalonians 1:8 “*In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.*”

The true story of someone actually in the flames is a poignant warning. No one should ever go there. Luke 16:24 The man “*Cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*”

Hell is the most horrible place imaginable—nothing but unrelenting pain and suffering. The rich man’s vision was clear as were his other senses. The man is in a *real place* and experiencing *real torment*.

To be sure he was heard, the man cries out loudly—he needed mercy—as we all do—like the man prayed Luke 18:13 “*God be merciful to me a sinner.*” It is why Jesus said Matthew 5:7 “*Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy*”—mercy is something everyone needs when meeting Jesus.

No one *deserves* God's mercy, but He graciously *grants* it to anyone who will *believe* that He died on the Cross for them and is then willing to *trust* in that atoning sacrifice for every issue of life—giving glory to God when He shows His favor and forgives our sins. The *mercy* of God is provided by the *Blood* of Jesus as we trust in faith on that eternal sacrifice!

God is always *merciful* Psalm 136:1—His mercy *endures forever*—He does not want *anyone* to go anywhere *near* the Lake of Fire. He wants to *prepare* us for Heaven, but we have to *allow* Him to *do* the spiritual work. Psalm 86:5 “*For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.*” Our part is to *call* on Him and to *trust* in His promises.

Everyone has *access* to God's grace, but they have to *seek* Him; *call* on Him; and *trust* in His divine power to deliver, heal, provide, and save to obtain it. A time will come when people will no longer *have* access to God's grace because they *rejected* His Son while they lived on earth. They never believed He *was* who He *said* He was, so they never *allowed* God to *prepare* them for His Son's return.

Luke 16:25 “*But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*” The rich man remembers the details of his life on earth; he remembers Lazarus at the gate; and he remembers that he showed no mercy when he had the chance to do so.

**A life of luxury was an idol to the man, but he would now trade it in a heartbeat. People can make an idol out of anything—a one-room apartment or a mansion; an entry-level sedan or a high-priced sports car because it is really a heart issue. What have we placed ahead of God in our life?—is the question to ask and answer—honestly. What or who comes ahead of God; What has our**

**attention and interest?—that is the issue we must deal with.**

The rich man, realizing all the things he put ahead of God on *earth*, is what placed him in the flames in *Hell*, and with no chance to *change* that situation. Luke 16:26 “*And besides all this, between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.*”

When anyone passes from this life, their destination is set. There is no second chance to *believe* Jesus or to put their *faith* in Him—no second chance to be forgiven of the sins that *took* them to the wrong place forever. *Now* is the time; *today* is the day to allow God to prepare us to meet Him—with our faith centered on Jesus. 2 Corinthians 6:2 “*Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*”

**When there is something to make right with another or an issue to get right with the Lord, now is the time to do it; today is the opportunity we have to repent, confess to God, and to forsake any wrong attitude by the help of His Spirit.** Today is the opportunity we have to accept His forgiveness—while we still have access to it. Hebrews 9:27 “*It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*”

It is a very distressing thought to ponder the *millions* of people in the Lake of Fire who would do anything to get *out* of that horrible place and be with people in Heaven. And those in the Kingdom would do anything to *help* such unfortunate people to be free from that dreadful situation—but there is *no crossing over*!

Hebrews 9:28 “*Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*” The *problem* is, they did not *look* for Him when on earth; they did not *believe* Him when they could; and they did not *trust* in Him when they had the opportunity. They had no time

for Jesus and never thought about what was going to happen down the road. Hell is a *real place* with *real people* suffering *real torment* there.

Revelation 14:10 “*The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night.*”

The warning *must* be *heeded* while we live on earth, because after this life, it is too late. Luke 16:27 Then the rich man said, “*I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house.*” He is pleading for *mercy* to be shown and a *warning* to be given to his family—the man's conscience still works.

The rich man, who was *not* concerned about the poor *nor* concerned about Lazarus, is *now* concerned about his *brothers* who are heading to the same place he is. The rich man wants to see them *change* their direction by being given a serious warning. Luke 16:29 “*Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.*”

**The key; the solution; and the escape has been explained in a Book for everyone to read and heed.** John 6:45 “*It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.*” It is *that* easy; it is just a *choice* on *our* part 2 Corinthians 6:2 “*Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*”

**The time to prepare is today—do not delay!**



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