

## **I. Introduction**

A. Foundational Premise: God created humanity to live in intimacy with Him. Because He desires an intimate relationship with us He continually pursues us for encounter. The Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:23).

B. We are undergoing a conversion from Western Christianity to Biblical Christianity. We want to leave the trappings of mental assent and easy believism and grow into a vibrant and living relationship with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

C. When we say “yes” to relationship with Jesus an immediate confrontation arises between our will and His will. We must come to Him on His terms and not our own. We cannot approach Him according to our rules, preferences, and desires and imagine that somehow we are actually engaging in relationship with Him. When we ask for His Kingdom to come it requires our own kingdom to go.

## **II. Seeing Him Face to Face**

A. Each of us has an immensely important day just ahead of us. It’s the day that we will see Jesus face to face (1 Cor 13:12). We cannot fathom the wonder of majesty that we will behold when we first look into His eyes of fire.

**1 John 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

B. On the very same day that we will stand before Him, He will review the works of our lives, looking through the days of our earthly journey in order to reward us according to our works (Rom 14:10, 1 Cor 3:10-15).

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

C. The Lord Himself will review every thought, word, and deed of each of us. The review will take place in the following way:

1. The things that we did before we were saved will be under the blood of Jesus and will not be reviewed. Those sins are completely cleansed and forgiven by the power of Jesus’ blood.

2. The sins that we committed after we came to Jesus are also able to be cleansed and not part of the review, if we repent of them.

**1 John 1:6-10** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the

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blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

3. Jesus will also look at the obedient works of faith and love that we have done and will reward us according to those works.

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15** According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

4. If there are sins that haven't been repented of we will have a conversation with Jesus about those sins.

5. It is noteworthy that there will be believers who will live their whole lives doing works that will be tested by fire and found unable to withstand the fire. The works will be burned up, but the believer will be saved.

6. The size of it or the scale of it does not determine the value of the work. The value of the work is determined by what materials were used to build.

a. Wood, hay, straw represent man's ways and desires

b. Gold, silver, precious stones represent God's ways and desires

7. Obedience (Luke 11:28), Faithfulness (Mat 25:21, 1 Pet 1:6-7), Fasting and Prayer (Mat 6:6, 17-18), Humility (1 Peter 5:6, James 4:10), Perseverance (James 1:12, Heb 10:35-36), Suffering for Righteousness (Luke 6:22-23, 2 Cor 4:17-18, Rev 2:10) Diligently seeking the Lord (Heb 11:6), Generosity (Mat 6:1-4), and Love (Heb 6:10, Gal 5:6) are all identified as activities that will be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ.

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8. Notice that human measures of success, like wealth or influence, are not in the list of things that will be rewarded. Many who seem to be worthy of great reward because of their level of human success will not receive rewards. God’s measures are not the same as man’s measures.