

## **OUR APPROACHING EVALUATION**

### **A STUDY OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

#### **SERIES OBJECTIVES**

Our goals for this study are for each of us

to be sobered by the certainty of this scheduled, face-to-Face appraisal by our all-knowing Master

to become aware that we – who are saved by grace – will be judged according to the quality and motive of our works

to realize that this evaluation of our lives will result in varying degrees of rewards and losses

#### **A MOST CERTAIN APPOINTMENT**

[Have someone read pages 7-8.]

? What do you hope to get out of this series on the Judgment Seat of Christ? How do you want your life to be different once this course is over?

[Summarize their answers.]

#### **WHO WILL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGE?**

##### **WILL BELIEVERS ACTUALLY STAND BEFORE GOD IN JUDGMENT?**

[Have someone read pages 9-10.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

We learned from this section that believers will be evaluated at this particular Judgment.

- ? Why do you think the *judgment of a believer* might sound foreign to many in the Church of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? [*Since my sins have already been forgiven, why will my deeds be reviewed? I am a trophy of His grace, not an object of His justice.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

***UNBELIEVERS WILL NOT BE EXAMINED AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST***

[Have someone read pages 10-12.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

The judgment of *unbelievers* will be considered later in this series (“God’s Final Judgment of the Unsaved,” pages 101-110). We shall discover from that section that *those who are evaluated* at that judgment, the *time* of that judgment, the *issue* to be discussed there and the *final result* of that evaluation will all be very different than this particular judgment of *believers*.

- ? Let’s take another look at 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:11-15. What can we learn about this judgment from this key passage? [*This judgment is for those who have Jesus Christ as the “Foundation” of their salvation. The two categories of building materials: those works that can withstand the fire of Christ’s judgment and those that cannot. The importance of one’s “quality” of work. The word “work” is mentioned four times. There will be “rewards” and “losses.” Even with loss, one’s salvation will remain intact.*]

- ? The ones described in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:1-9 have certain characteristics. Let’s review, once more, what these are. [*See the bullet points, pages 11-12.*]

***WILL THIS BE A JUDGMENT OF INDIVIDUALS OR A GROUP?***

[Have someone read page 12.]

The spiritual condition of the Church as a whole is not going to be the issue discussed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. No, the focus of this judgment will be on the individual believer.

This Truth is, indeed, sobering. That the individual believer will one day “give an account of himself to God” should have an effect on the way he conducts his life. Furthermore, it should also have an effect on the way a local body of believers conducts its life.

? If every member of your church were made aware of their approaching evaluation, what effect do you think that would have on *the church's* character and ministry? [*Regarding her character, it would tend to purify her. Regarding the Great Commission, it would tend to motivate and mobilize her.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

### **CONCLUSION**

[Have someone read page 12.]

### **WHO IS THE JUDGE?**

[Have someone read page 13.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Let's try to imagine ourselves standing before Christ as He evaluates our stewardship.

? Can you think of any passages of Scripture that tell us what He looks like?

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Revelation 1:13-16.]

*I SAW ONE LIKE A SON OF MAN, CLOTHED IN A ROBE REACHING TO THE FEET, AND GIRDED ACROSS HIS CHEST WITH A GOLDEN SASH. HIS HEAD AND HIS HAIR WERE WHITE LIKE WHITE WOOL, LIKE SNOW; AND HIS EYES WERE LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE. HIS FEET WERE LIKE BURNISHED BRONZE, WHEN IT HAS BEEN MADE TO GLOW IN A FURNACE, AND HIS VOICE WAS LIKE THE SOUND OF MANY WATERS ... AND HIS FACE WAS LIKE THE SUN SHINING IN ITS STRENGTH. (REVELATION 1:13-16)*

[Have someone read Revelation 4:2-3.]

*AND BEHOLD, A THRONE WAS STANDING IN HEAVEN, AND ONE SITTING ON THE THRONE. AND HE WHO WAS SITTING WAS LIKE A JASPER STONE AND A SARDIUS IN APPEARANCE; AND THERE WAS A RAINBOW AROUND THE THRONE, LIKE AN EMERALD IN APPEARANCE. (REVELATION 4:2-3)*

? What do you think your emotions will be at this time? [*intensely awed by His appearance, the Throne Room itself, the angels, etc. Excited. Not being able to take in everything. Apprehensive.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

#### **WHY THE JUDGMENT OF JESUS CHRIST IS RELIABLE**

[Have someone read pages 13-14.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

It was stated in your reading that the Lord Jesus Christ “will already know ‘the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth’ about each person that bows before Him.” That fact tends to produce fear in our hearts ... and well it should.

But for our Judge to be all-knowing is also very good news for the exact same reason ... that He knows “the whole truth and nothing but the truth” about us.

? Why is that good news? [*Our evaluation will be 100% just and fair. We will not suffer any loss because of the Judge's ignorance. Truths about us will come to light that merit reward, some of which we may not have even been aware!*]

[Summarize their answers.]

## **WHEN IS THIS JUDGMENT?**

### ***THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST***

#### **The Location of Christ in Relation to the Earth**

[Have someone read pages 15-16.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

### ***THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST***

#### **The Location of the Church in Relation to Christ**

[Have someone read pages 16-17.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

### ***THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST***

#### **The Purposes**

[Have someone read pages 17-18.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

**THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS  
SOMETIME AFTER THE CHURCH IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH**

[Have someone read pages 18-19.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Most (if not all) believers long to be removed from this earth when Christ returns for His Bride. But what about this event that *follows* the Rapture of the Church?

? Do you think it is possible for someone to *look forward to* the Judgment Seat of Christ? If so, why would they? If not, why not?

[Summarize their answers.]

**THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS  
SOMETIME BEFORE THE CHURCH RETURNS TO EARTH WITH CHRIST**

[Have someone read pages 19-20.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

**WHERE IS THIS JUDGMENT?**

**CONCLUSION**

[Have someone read page 20.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Let's place ourselves in the Throne Room of Christ as He evaluates our stewardship.

? Can you think of any passages of Scripture that tell us what this Throne Room looks like?

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Isaiah 6:1-2.]

*I SAW THE LORD SITTING ON A THRONE, LOFTY AND EXALTED, WITH THE TRAIN OF HIS ROBE FILLING THE TEMPLE. SERAPHIM STOOD ABOVE HIM, EACH HAVING SIX WINGS: WITH TWO HE COVERED HIS FACE, AND WITH TWO HE COVERED HIS FEET, AND WITH TWO HE FLEW. (ISAIAH 6:1-2)*

[Have someone read Revelation 4:2-10.]

*IMMEDIATELY I WAS IN THE SPIRIT; AND BEHOLD, A THRONE WAS STANDING IN HEAVEN, AND ONE SITTING ON THE THRONE ... AND THERE WAS A RAINBOW AROUND THE THRONE, LIKE AN EMERALD IN APPEARANCE. AROUND THE THRONE WERE TWENTY-FOUR THRONES; AND UPON THE THRONES I SAW TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS SITTING, CLOTHED IN WHITE GARMENTS, AND GOLDEN CROWNS ON THEIR HEADS. OUT FROM THE THRONE COME FLASHES OF LIGHTNING ... AND THERE WERE SEVEN LAMPS OF FIRE BURNING BEFORE THE THRONE ... AND BEFORE THE THRONE THERE WAS SOMETHING LIKE A SEA OF GLASS, LIKE CRYSTAL; AND IN THE CENTER AND AROUND THE THRONE, FOUR LIVING CREATURES FULL OF EYES IN FRONT AND BEHIND. THE FIRST CREATURE WAS LIKE A LION, AND THE SECOND CREATURE LIKE A CALF, AND THE THIRD CREATURE HAD A FACE LIKE THAT OF A MAN, AND THE FOURTH CREATURE WAS LIKE A FLYING EAGLE. AND THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES, EACH ONE OF THEM HAVING SIX WINGS, ARE FULL OF EYES AROUND AND WITHIN ... AND WHEN THE LIVING CREATURES GIVE GLORY AND HONOR AND THANKS TO HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, TO HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER, THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS WILL FALL DOWN BEFORE HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, AND WILL WORSHIP HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER, AND WILL CAST THEIR CROWNS BEFORE THE THRONE. (REVELATION 4:2-10)*

? Can you think of any passages of Scripture that tell us what you will hear in the Throne Room of God?

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Isaiah 6:2-3.]

*SERAPHIM STOOD ABOVE HIM, EACH HAVING SIX WINGS ... AND ONE CALLED OUT TO ANOTHER AND SAID, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, IS THE LORD OF HOSTS. THE WHOLE EARTH IS FULL OF HIS GLORY." (ISAIAH 6:2-3)*

[Have someone read Revelation 4:5.]

*OUT FROM THE THRONE COME FLASHES OF LIGHTNING AND SOUNDS AND PEALS OF THUNDER.  
(REVELATION 4:5)*

[Have someone read Revelation 4:8-11.]

*DAY AND NIGHT (THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES) DO NOT CEASE TO SAY, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME." AND WHEN THE LIVING CREATURES GIVE GLORY AND HONOR AND THANKS TO HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, TO HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER, THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS WILL FALL DOWN BEFORE HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, AND WILL WORSHIP HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER, AND WILL CAST THEIR CROWNS BEFORE THE THRONE, SAYING, "WORTHY ARE YOU, OUR LORD AND OUR GOD, TO RECEIVE GLORY AND HONOR AND POWER; FOR YOU CREATED ALL THINGS, AND BECAUSE OF YOUR WILL THEY EXISTED, AND WERE CREATED." (REVELATION 4:8-11)*

### **WHAT IS NOT THE ISSUE AT THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 21-22.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

We said that neither our sins nor the assurance of our salvation would be the issues for the believer before the Judgment Seat of Christ. To support this, we considered some of God's promises that assure the believer that his sins have been fully and forever removed from him.

? If our sins *were* the issue at the Judgment Seat of Christ, what would that do to these promises of God? *[It would discredit every promise of God as well as the character of God. We could no longer trust God to keep even this promise: "...whosoever believes in His Son shall not perish but have everlasting life.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **WHAT ABOUT YOU? HAVE YOU SETTLED THIS ISSUE WITH GOD?**

[Have someone read pages 22-23.]



“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

If anyone would like to talk about this issue privately with me or another believer you are close to, I hope you will feel the freedom and ease to do so.

### **WHAT IS THE ISSUE AT THIS JUDGMENT?**

[Have someone read page 24.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

There must be a reason God will use our “deeds in the body” to evaluate our lives.

? What do the works of a believer reveal? [*His level of loving devotion to God. His degree of faithfulness toward his Master. The extent of his perseverance in the midst of adversity. The depth of his faith.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

### **THE PROPERTIES MANAGED BY THE STEWARD**

[Have someone read pages 25-26.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Concerning our *character*, we are *all* expected to display the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

But *no one* is expected to perform *every ministry*.

- ? How do you know what to say "Yes" to and what to say "No" to? *[Determine what your God-given abilities (gifts) are, where your passion lies, and your time limitations.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

- ? Why is it important that you know when to say "Yes" and when to say "No"? *[That is the only way you can use your life to the maximum for Christ.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### SAVED BY GRACE ... JUDGED BY WORKS

[Have someone read pages 26-27.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

It was stated in your reading, "Perhaps we (believers) are hesitant to emphasize the role of works in the Christian life because we do not want to be branded as 'legalists.'" Most certainly, God does not want His people to be legalistic; but He does expect us to be obedient.

- ? How can it be that two individuals actively seek to be pure – to separate their lives from sinful practices – and one of them is legalistic ... but the other one is not?

*[A legalistic person is not someone who adheres to a stricter code of conduct that you do. Legalism is not determined by **what** a person does. (It is possible for two individuals to take the **same action**, with one of them being legalistic and the other one is not.) Legalism is determined by **why** a person does what he does. The difference between the two is one of **motive**.]*

*[A legalistic person obeys a command to get saved or stay saved. An obedient person obeys a command because he already is saved and wants to express loving gratitude for his Redeemer. The former is trying to **get** something from God via works; the latter is **giving** his gratitude for the favor God has already given him.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**THE LEANING BALE OF HAY**  
(Cultivating an Eternal Perspective)

[Have someone read pages 28-29.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

? What is the point of this story? *[To avoid suffering loss at the Judgment Seat of Christ, the believer must cultivate an eternal perspective. He must give his heart (and, therefore, his attention) to the things of Christ rather than the many distractions this world offers him.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

? How does one cultivate an eternal perspective? What can he do to give his heart, more and more, to Christ and His Kingdom? *[He should **personalize** the truths he knows about the character and works of God. That is, he should ponder their relevance to his own life. The result will be an appreciation for and fear of God, motivating him to give of himself more and more to his Savior.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**THE CHARACTER OF OUR CHOICES**

**THE FOUNDATION**

[Have someone read page 30.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

? Before the Apostle Paul describes the different building materials a believer can use in his labor for Christ (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:12-15), he first describes the Foundation upon which he builds (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:10-11). Why do you think he brought up salvation through faith in Christ, the Foundation, before he explained the importance of a believer's works? *[Just as a building's construction is in vain*

*without a solid foundation, the works of an individual are in vain before the foundation of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus is established. He also may have wanted to remind the reader that his works is not what saves him.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **THE BUILDING MATERIALS**

#### **CONCLUSION**

[Have someone read pages 30-32.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

It was stated on page 31, “The gold, silver, and precious stones ... represent the believer’s faithful obedience and service to his Master ... These are *(God’s)* works – accomplished through us – for which we will be rewarded.” This can be seen in Paul’s own testimony regarding the power behind his ministry.

[Have someone read Colossians 1:29.]

*FOR THIS PURPOSE, ALSO, I LABOR, STRIVING ACCORDING TO HIS POWER, WHICH MIGHTILY WORKS WITHIN ME. (COLOSSIANS 1:29)*

? Why is it that the only works viewed by God as “*gold, silver, and precious stones*” are those that *He did* through you? Why are *His* works the only works He will accept? [*The best works of man are imperfect because man is imperfect. The works of God are perfect because God is perfect. God will only accept what is perfect.*]

[Have someone read Isaiah 64:6.]

*FOR ALL OF US HAVE BECOME LIKE ONE WHO IS UNCLEAN, AND ALL OUR RIGHTEOUS DEEDS ARE LIKE A FILTHY GARMENT; AND ALL OF US WITHER LIKE A LEAF, AND OUR INIQUITIES, LIKE THE WIND, TAKE US AWAY. (ISAIAH 64:6)*

[Summarize their answers.]

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S PROPERTIES**

### **A STEWARD OF GOD'S GIFTS**

(Service)

#### **Faithful Service**

[Have someone read pages 33-35. Take note of footnote 2, page 42.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

In this section it was stated that Christ Jesus will reward his servants for being *faithful*. That is, they did what they were given to do (they obeyed and served Him) to the best of their Spirit-empowered ability.

? How does one *become* faithful? What should he do for that trait to be cultivated in his life? [*Honest prayer of confession. On-going prayer for help. Do what he tells someone he will do. Perhaps ask someone to keep him accountable.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

#### **Devoted Service**

[[Have someone read pages 36-38. Take note of footnote 3, page 42.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

In this section it was stated that Christ Jesus will reward his servants for being *devoted to Him*. That is, they had a single-hearted passion for Christ which showed in the zeal with which they represented and served Him (in their character and ministry).

? How does one *become* devoted to Christ? What should he do for that trait to be cultivated in his life? [*Honest prayer of confession. On-going prayer for help. Remain mindful of all that Christ has done for him by spending regular time in the Word and prayer and Christian fellowship*]

[Summarize their answers.]

### **A STEWARD OF GOD'S WORD**

(Faith and Obedience)

#### **Faith and Obedience**

[Have someone read pages 38-40.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Some people get more from their Bible reading than others. They just seem to flourish in their understanding of the Scriptures. There is more than one reason for that.

? But according to this section we just read, what is one of the reasons? [*When one has a resolve to obey what he learns, he is showing himself to be a faithful steward of the truth. Consequently, the Spirit of God is willing to entrust him with even more truth because He knows that this believer will obey that, as well.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

### **A STEWARD OF GOD'S LOVE**

(Motive)

#### **Our Love for Others**

[Have someone read pages 40-41.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

In this section it was stated that Christ Jesus will reward those believers who served others out of *love for them*. They did what they did because it was in the others' best interest, not because it was in their own best interest.

This kind of love is not a man generated love but, rather, a Holy Spirit generated love.

- ? In order to love others, we must *draw upon* the love of God, made available to us by the indwelling Holy Spirit. But how do you that? *[Through prayer, one must depend upon God to love others – even the unlovable – through him. It is only by faith that we can love others.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **Our Love for God**

[Have someone read pages 41.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

As with the preceding section, this love for God is not man generated but, rather, Holy Spirit generated. Because of his sinful nature, man cannot love God. Only God can love God.

- ? It is easy for one to say, “I love God.” According to your reading, how do we know if that is true? *[Are we looking for ways to obey His commands?]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **CONCLUSION**

[Have someone read page 42.]

### **THE TEMPORARY REWARDS WE WILL JOYFULLY SURRENDER**

#### **THE GOLDEN WREATHS OF TRIUMPH**

[Have someone read pages 43-45.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

It was stated in your reading that “Believers ... will wear the crowns reserved for those who – through Christ – are victors over the world.”

[Have someone read 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:5.]

*WHO IS THE ONE WHO OVERCOMES THE WORLD, BUT HE WHO BELIEVES THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD? (1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN 5:5)*

We are victors over the world, not by our own strength but by our faith in Christ Jesus. He is the One Who overcame the world. Because true believers are “in Christ,” they share in His victory over the world.

[Have someone read John 16:33.]

*THESE THINGS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU, SO THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE. IN THE WORLD YOU HAVE TRIBULATION, BUT TAKE COURAGE; I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD. (JOHN 16:33)*

We should notice from this verse that being victorious over the world does not mean being insulated from the world's attacks.

? How, then, does the believer experience victory over the world if tribulation from the world is still a part of his life? *[Unlike an unbeliever, the believer has the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit to not give in to the world's temptations and persecutions. And by the power of the resurrected Christ, he has the ability to remain composed in the midst of intense adversity.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

We are told that these crowns are “laid up” for us. They are “safely kept” for us. And sometime “in the future” we will be awarded these crowns.

[Have someone read 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:8.]

*IN THE FUTURE THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE, WILL AWARD TO ME ON THAT DAY .... (2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 4:8)*

Or to put it in the words of an old country preacher, “We’ll get these crowns up there, not down here.”

? What does the believer need for this promise of a future reward to help him right now? *[He needs to believe that this promise is from God. He needs to believe that God will keep His promises. And to prevent himself from forfeiting*



*his rewards, he needs to depend on the Spirit of God for perseverance in the midst of attacks aimed at him because he is a Christ-follower.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **THE CROWN OF LIFE**

[Have someone read pages 45-47.]

“What information was the most **interesting** or **helpful** or **new** to you?”

“Was there any information that was **confusing**?”

“Was there any information that you **disagreed** with?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

We learned that this Crown of Life will be given to the “Spirit-empowered believer who overcomes) – with composure – the attacks from Christ’s enemies.” Matthew 5:44 tells us one step we can take to be able to respond in this way toward those who attack us:

[Have someone read Matthew 5:44]

*I SAY TO YOU, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. (MATTHEW 5:43-44)*

We are to pray for those who persecute us.

? What *specifically* are we to pray for our enemies? What should we ask the Lord to do in their lives? *[Save them if they are lost. Mature them if they are saved. Convict them of their sins. Bless their lives. Enable us to forgive them with the same forgiveness with which Christ has forgiven us. Give us God’s wisdom to know how to respond to them for their good and God’s glory.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **THE CROWN OF EXULTATION**

[Have someone read pages 48-49.]

“What information was the most **interesting** or **helpful** or **new** to you?”

“Was there any information that was **confusing**?”

“Was there any information that you **disagreed** with?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

Every Christ-follower has been *called to strengthen Christ's Church* in some way.

- ? How do you know to what specific ministry(ies) you have been called? *[A calling is determined by one's unique, God-given **gifts** (abilities used to strengthen Christ's Church) and by his particular **passion** (the thing he is highly motivated to do). Another important factor is the **time** he has to perform his ministry. Some circumstances (sickness, family issues, et. al.) may prevent him for participating in this service, at least for a time.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:10.]

*AS EACH ONE HAS RECEIVED A SPECIAL GIFT, EMPLOY IT IN SERVING ONE ANOTHER AS GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD. (1<sup>ST</sup> PETER 4:10)*

### **THE CROWN OF GLORY**

[Have someone read page 50.]

"What information was the most **interesting** or **helpful** or **new** to you?"

"Was there any information that was **confusing**?"

"Was there any information that you **disagreed** with?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

If your pastor is faithful to his God-entrusted stewardship, you can be sure that he is being attacked from many sides.

- ? In what ways can you help your pastor be faithful to his calling? *[Pray for his witness to be Christ-like. Pray for his sermon preparation and delivery. Pray for his leadership skills. Verbally encourage him. Write him notes of encouragement. Take him out for a steak dinner.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

[Have someone read pages 51-52.]

"What information was the most **interesting** or **helpful** or **new** to you?"

"Was there any information that was **confusing**?"

"Was there any information that you **disagreed** with?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

To believe in “the integrity of the Scriptures” is to believe that the original manuscripts, penned by human authors, were inspired by God (“God-breathed”), down to the very letters ... that God, in His sovereign care, has preserved its trustworthiness in the copies of those manuscripts ... and that its authority over our lives remains intact today.

? How can you tell if someone believes in “the integrity of the Scriptures”? *[He will view all of its words as “God’s Truth,” he will defend its authority over the lives of man (including his own), he will entrust his very soul to its reliability, and he will obey its teachings.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **CASTING OUR CROWNS BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD**

[Have someone read pages 53-54.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

? Why does God deserve all the credit for a fruitful ministry in which **you** have grown weary, faithfully laboring long hours and withstanding much criticism? *[God supplied us with all we needed and used to perform our ministries, including the physical strength and know-how. Furthermore, it is only by His power that lives can change.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

The crowns the saints will be given to wear are crowns they do not deserve to wear. Christ, and Christ alone, deserves to wear these crowns of gold. They represent the works *He* did in and through believers, but that *they* will wear.

? Can you think of a crown Jesus was given to wear that *He* did not deserve? *[the crown of thorns]*

[Have someone read Matthew 27:29.]

*AND AFTER TWISTING TOGETHER A CROWN OF THORNS, THEY PUT IT ON HIS HEAD, AND A REED IN HIS RIGHT HAND; AND THEY KNELT DOWN BEFORE HIM AND MOCKED HIM, SAYING, "HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS!" (MATTHEW 27:29)*

This crown Christ was given to wear was one He did not deserve to wear. But because of *our sinful works*, you and I do.

? What did this crown of thorns represent? *[It represents God's curse of corruption and death upon all creation because of the sin of man, a curse Jesus Christ took upon Himself.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Genesis 3:17-18.]

*THEN TO ADAM (GOD) SAID, "BECAUSE YOU HAVE LISTENED TO THE VOICE OF YOUR WIFE, AND HAVE EATEN FROM THE TREE ABOUT WHICH I COMMANDED YOU, SAYING, 'YOU SHALL NOT EAT FROM IT,' CURSED IS THE GROUND BECAUSE OF YOU. IN TOIL YOU WILL EAT OF IT ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE. BOTH THORNS AND THISTLES IT SHALL GROW FOR YOU ...." (GENESIS 3:17-18)*

### **WHEN WILL BELIEVERS CAST THEIR CROWNS BEFORE GOD'S THRONE?**

[Have someone read page 54.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

### **THE ETERNAL REWARDS WE WILL GRATEFULLY KEEP**

#### **THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST ON THIS EARTH**

[Have someone read page 55. Take note of footnote 4, pages 56-57.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

***THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST ON THE NEW EARTH***

[Have someone read page 56.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

***THE ETERNAL REWARDS***

**Christ's Praise for Faithful Stewardship**

[Have someone read page 58.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Imagine yourself meeting Christ Jesus for the first time face-to-face; and with a joyful smile, He says to you, “Well done, good and faithful slave.”

? What thoughts and emotions do you think will flood your mind and heart once you hear these words of praise?

[Summarize their answers.]

***THE ETERNAL REWARDS***

**A Position of Civil Authority**

[Have someone read pages 58-59.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

[Have someone read Revelation 5:10.]

*YOU HAVE MADE THEM TO BE A KINGDOM AND PRIESTS TO OUR GOD; AND THEY WILL REIGN UPON THE EARTH. (REVELATION 5:10)*

Notice that those who reign with Christ in these positions of civil authority will also serve as “priests.” That is, this form of government does not recognize a “separation of Church and state.” This is a theocracy.

? What is a theocracy? *[God is the Head of a political system, reigning through a human agent, His “Anointed One,” His “Messiah,” His “Christ.” Jesus will serve as both Priest and King. Believers, too, will serve as “priests” and as those who “reign” with Jesus Christ.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

Notice, too, that Revelation 5:10 does not describe the government of one nation or a union of nations. The Kingdom of Christ stretches over all the earth. The saints are going to reign with Christ over a world-wide empire.

### **THE ETERNAL REWARDS**

#### **A Capacity to Radiate the Blazing Glory of God**

[Have someone read pages 60-61.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

The manner we live our lives now will determine the capacity we will be given to radiate the glory of God in His Kingdom.

? What do you think every believer needs in order to “walk in a manner worthy of the God Who calls him into His Own Kingdom and glory”? *[a clear understanding of God's Word, encouragement and opportunities to pray for one another, an opportunity to use his abilities to strengthen the members of his local church, prayer support as he endures various afflictions, mature accountability, genuine spiritual fellowship, Biblical environment of worship, exhortation to obey the truths he knows ...]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**SUMMARY: OUR ETERNAL REWARDS**

[Have someone read pages 61-62.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

This section ended with the passage Matthew 6:19-21.

[Have someone read Matthew 6:19-21.]

*DO NOT STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES ON EARTH, WHERE MOTH AND RUST DESTROY, AND WHERE THIEVES BREAK IN AND STEAL. BUT STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN, WHERE NEITHER MOTH NOR RUST DESTROYS, AND WHERE THIEVES DO NOT BREAK IN OR STEAL; FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO. (MATTHEW 6:19-21)*

The point is that we are not to live for this world.

? Why does it have to be “either ... or”? Why not “both ... and”? [No one has two hearts ... only one. Therefore, no one can have two all-consuming passions ... only one.]

[Have someone read Matthew 6:24.]

*NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS; FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR HE WILL BE DEVOTED TO ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER. (MATTHEW 6:24)*

[Have someone read Proverbs 6:6-11.]

*GO TO THE ANT, O SLUGGARD; OBSERVE HER WAYS AND BE WISE, WHICH, HAVING NO CHIEF, OFFICER OR RULER, PREPARES HER FOOD IN THE SUMMER AND GATHERS HER PROVISION IN THE HARVEST. HOW LONG WILL YOU LIE DOWN, O SLUGGARD? WHEN WILL YOU ARISE FROM YOUR SLEEP? "A LITTLE SLEEP, A LITTLE SLUMBER, A LITTLE FOLDING OF THE HANDS TO REST" – YOUR POVERTY WILL COME IN LIKE A VAGABOND AND YOUR NEED LIKE AN ARMED MAN. (PROVERBS 6:6-11)*

The emphasis of this passage is “Do not be lazy.” But in the process of this counsel, we are instructed to have a responsible savings program ... i.e., to gather our harvest in the summer to avoid hunger in the winter. Yet elsewhere (Matthew 6:19), we are told not to “store up treasures on earth.”

- ? How do you know when you have stepped over the line of doing what is responsible to doing what is indulgent? *[We need to establish a proper distinction between “needs” and “wants.”]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **THE APPLE FARMER'S STEWARD**

(Cultivating Faithfulness)

[Have someone read pages 63-65.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

- ? What is the point of this story? *[God wants to cultivate faithfulness in the lives of His children. To do so, the Father stretches our endurance by putting us in stagnated situations that tempt us to quit. Steadfastness is fortified when the laborer, seeing few – if any – results of his ministry, doggedly remains in that ministry because he knows that is where his Master wants him to be (and that's the only reason he stays).]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **THE LOSS OF A REWARD**

#### **WOOD, HAY, AND STRAW**

(A Poorly Invested Life)

[Have someone read pages 66-67.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”



[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

- ? Why do you think that believers who live a “wood, hay and straw” life *allow* this kind of life to continue? *[They are not aware that they will one day be judged by their works. They are comparing their lives with the other believers around them rather than the Word of God. Consequently, they are unaware that their lives fall short of what Christ expects. (Any other kind of Christian is strange or legalistic or fanatical.) They confuse knowledge with obedience. They believe that just because they know the Bible, they must be mature. Some church leaders believe that just because they are leaders, they must be mature.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **A WORLD ENAMORED LIFE**

[Have someone read pages 67-68.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Some of you have (or had or would like to have) children. Concerning their *spiritual lives*

- ? What do you think Christ wants them to *know* before they leave home as young adults?

[Summarize their answers.]

Concerning their *spiritual lives*

- ? What do you think Christ wants them to *be* before they leave home as young adults?

[Summarize their answers.]

Concerning their *spiritual lives*

- ? What do you think Christ wants them to *know how to do* before they leave home as young adults?

[Summarize their answers.]

- ? What will it take for *you* – as their parent – *to prepare them* to know and be and do what Christ wants them to know and be and do before they leave home as young adults? That is, what must *you* know and be and do for that to happen?

(Keep in mind: the role of discipling children is primarily in the hands of the parents, not the local church (Ephesians 6:4). The local church is to come alongside the parents to help them. But it is not the church's responsibility to disciple children *for* the parents.)

[Summarize their answers.]

### **A SELF EXALTING LIFE**

[Have someone read pages 68-69.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

[Have someone read Philippians 2:4-8.]

*DO NOT MERELY LOOK OUT FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL INTERESTS, BUT ALSO FOR THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS. HAVE THIS ATTITUDE IN YOURSELVES WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO, ALTHOUGH HE EXISTED IN THE FORM OF GOD, DID NOT REGARD EQUALITY WITH GOD A THING TO BE GRASPED, BUT EMPTIED HIMSELF, TAKING THE FORM OF A BOND-SERVANT, AND BEING MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN. BEING FOUND IN APPEARANCE AS A MAN, HE HUMBLING HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS. (PHILIPPIANS 2:4-8)*

- ? According to this passage what did Jesus do to humble Himself? [*He led a life of obedience to God. That is, the Son of God – although equal to God the Father – did not insist upon being exalted as God but became a bond-Servant for the sake of others.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

- ? Why would obedience result in humility? [*As we seek to obey the Lord, we will eventually realize that we cannot do so in our own strength. We need His power to do so. It is a humbling thing to learn that we are not self-sufficient.*]

- ? What then should we do to humble ourselves before God and man? [*We, too, should be obedient to God as His bond-slaves.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

### ***A SELF DEPENDENT LIFE***

[Have someone read pages 69-71.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

? How does one grow in dependence on God? [*He must really want to understand the Scriptures. He must really want his ministry to be powerful and fruitful. He must really want to be like Christ. And he will likely fail in trying to do these things in his own strength. Until he fails, he will probably continue trying to do these things in his own strength. He will continue to trust in himself. But if he fails, in time he will come to understand that he cannot be and do what he really wants to be and do without Christ.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

### ***A HEALTHY FEAR***

[Have someone read pages 71-72. Take note of footnote 5, page 73.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Both believers and unbelievers are to fear the Lord. Jesus warns the *unbeliever* to “fear Him Who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell” (Matthew 10:28). But the Apostle Peter warns the *believer* to “conduct yourselves in fear (of the Father) during the time of your stay on earth (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:17).

? What exactly are believers supposed to fear? [*bowing before the Lord ashamed that they had lived their lives for self rather than for Him.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

***WILL THE ONE WHO LIVED FOR SELF FACE AN ETERNITY OF SORROW?***

? What should a believer do who realizes – at the age of 60 – that he has not lived properly for Christ? Now what?

[Summarize their answers.]

***SUMMARY***

[Have someone read page 73.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

***A FINAL APPEAL***

[Have someone read pages 74-75.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Our fear is that much of the Christian community is unaware of this event that follows the Rapture of the Church.

? What does the Church need to do to correct this problem? [*Teach this subject to our small groups. Talk about this to our Christian friends. Preach on this subject from the pulpit. Pray that the Lord would do a work in our hearts that we would crave His fellowship, live for His glory, obey His Word, and serve Him faithfully. None of this can be done without Christ's power.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

The fact is, “only God can prepare us to face God.”

## **APPENDIX A**

### **A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SOME OTHER JUDGMENTS**

Many believe that, when this world is over, there will be one big judgment ... that all of humanity will be assembled together and, one by one, God will judge us.

The Bible, however, speaks of several different judgments. Different groups of *individuals* will be judged at different *times* and in different *locations*. When we come across the word "judgment" while reading through the Scriptures, *it will be the context that reveals which judgment is being addressed.*

#### **1. THE FATHER'S JUDGMENT UPON JESUS CHRIST** **THE ISSUE OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 76-77.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

? What has God commanded the Church to observe to keep Her ever mindful of His judgment upon the Son? [*the Lord's Supper is a memorial to God's execution of His Son.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:23-26.]

*FOR I RECEIVED FROM THE LORD THAT WHICH I ALSO DELIVERED TO YOU, THAT THE LORD JESUS IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED TOOK BREAD; AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE BROKE IT AND SAID, "THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS FOR YOU; DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME." IN THE SAME WAY HE TOOK THE CUP ALSO AFTER SUPPER, SAYING, "THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD; DO THIS, AS OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME." FOR AS OFTEN AS YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THE CUP, YOU PROCLAIM THE LORD'S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES. (1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS 11:23-26)*

? How will God remind the redeemed throughout eternity of His judgment upon the Son? [*Apparently, the wounds of Christ will be forever visible.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read John 20:19-20, 26-27.]

*SO WHEN IT WAS EVENING ON THAT DAY, THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, AND WHEN THE DOORS WERE SHUT WHERE THE DISCIPLES WERE, FOR FEAR OF THE JEWS, JESUS CAME AND STOOD IN THEIR MIDST AND SAID TO THEM, "PEACE BE WITH YOU." AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE SHOWED THEM BOTH HIS HANDS AND HIS SIDE. THE DISCIPLES THEN REJOICED WHEN THEY SAW THE LORD.*

*AFTER EIGHT DAYS HIS DISCIPLES WERE AGAIN INSIDE, AND THOMAS WITH THEM. JESUS CAME, THE DOORS HAVING BEEN SHUT, AND STOOD IN THEIR MIDST AND SAID, "PEACE BE WITH YOU." THEN HE SAID TO THOMAS, "REACH HERE WITH YOUR FINGER, AND SEE MY HANDS; AND REACH HERE YOUR HAND AND PUT IT INTO MY SIDE; AND DO NOT BE UNBELIEVING, BUT BELIEVING."  
(JOHN 20:19-20, 26-27)*

? Why do you think the Father wants His people to always remember the judgment He carried out upon His Son? *[He does not want us to forget the Price He lovingly paid to redeem us.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:17-19.]

*IF YOU ADDRESS AS FATHER THE ONE WHO IMPARTIALLY JUDGES ACCORDING TO EACH ONE'S WORK, CONDUCT YOURSELVES IN FEAR DURING THE TIME OF YOUR STAY ON EARTH; KNOWING THAT YOU WERE NOT REDEEMED WITH PERISHABLE THINGS LIKE SILVER OR GOLD FROM YOUR FUTILE WAY OF LIFE INHERITED FROM YOUR FOREFATHERS, BUT WITH PRECIOUS BLOOD, AS OF A LAMB UNBLEMISHED AND SPOTLESS, THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. (1<sup>ST</sup> PETER 1:17-19)*

### **1. THE FATHER'S JUDGMENT UPON JESUS CHRIST THE TIME OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read page 77.]

### **1. THE FATHER'S JUDGMENT UPON JESUS CHRIST THE RESULTS OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 77-78]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

- ? What do you think *your life* would be like if Jesus Christ had not been sent by the Father to die in your place?

[Summarize their answers.]

- ? What do you think *the world* would be like if Jesus Christ had not died on the Cross?

[Summarize their answers.]

## **2. THE FATHER'S DISCIPLINE OF THE BELIEVER** **THE ISSUE OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 79-80.]

- "What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"  
 "Was there any information that was *confusing*?"  
 "Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

- ? What is the difference between God's punishment and God's discipline?
- ? Why do you think it is important that believers have a clear understanding of this difference? *[This will help the believer being disciplined to understand (and believe) the truth that God is "on his side" rather than the lie that God is against him ... that God loves him; He does not hate him ... that – through suffering – God seeks to build him up, not tear him down.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

## **2. THE FATHER'S DISCIPLINE OF THE BELIEVER** **THE TIME OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read page 80.]

It was stated in your reading, "The Father's discipline of His sons and daughters is an on-going part of their life in Christ." On the surface, that sounds like bad news.

- ? Why is this good news *for the believer*? *[Though suffering is painful, going through life presenting a poor testimony of the Savior to others is far worse ... being unable to respond to adverse situations with stability and security and grace is far worse ... and bowing before the Judgment Seat of Christ as an*

*unfaithful steward is far worse. To be conformed to the image of Christ through any means, including discipline, is one of the greatest gifts the Father can give His child.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

## **2. THE FATHER'S DISCIPLINE OF THE BELIEVER** **THE PURPOSES OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 80-82.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

[Have someone read John 17:17.]

*SANCTIFY THEM IN THE TRUTH; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH. (JOHN 17:17)*

? Do you believe that every change that needs to take place in your life will happen by *reading* the Bible? Why ... or why not?

[Summarize their answers.]

Recall a period of suffering you have gone through as a believer. (Perhaps you are going through that time right now.)

? What truth about God did you learn / are you learning through that time of suffering?

[Summarize their answers.]

? Was the lesson you learned about God worth the trial it took for you to learn that truth? Why ... or why not?

[Summarize their answers.]



### **3. THE BELIEVER'S JUDGMENT OF HIMSELF** *THE ISSUE OF THIS JUDGMENT*

[Have someone read page 83.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

It was stated in your reading, "Far from being a one-time event at his conversion, this self-evaluation by the believer is to be an on-going practice."

It was then mentioned, "Although certainly not limited to this occasion, the New Testament prescribes a time for the believer's self-judgment. He is to do so before he partakes of the Lord's Supper."

[Have someone read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:27-31.]

*THEREFORE WHOEVER EATS THE BREAD OR DRINKS THE CUP OF THE LORD IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER, SHALL BE GUILTY OF THE BODY AND THE BLOOD OF THE LORD. BUT A MAN MUST EXAMINE HIMSELF, AND IN SO DOING HE IS TO EAT OF THE BREAD AND DRINK OF THE CUP. FOR HE WHO EATS AND DRINKS, EATS AND DRINKS JUDGMENT TO HIMSELF IF HE DOES NOT JUDGE THE BODY RIGHTLY. FOR THIS REASON MANY AMONG YOU ARE WEAK AND SICK, AND A NUMBER SLEEP. BUT IF WE JUDGED OURSELVES RIGHTLY, WE WOULD NOT BE JUDGED. (1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS 11:27-31)*

It is time to observe the Lord's Supper. The pastor gives each believer time to prepare for this sacred time.

? But what is involved? How does a believer judge himself? What must he do to "examine himself"? [He must take his personal sins seriously, praying to have the same attitude God has toward those sins ... he is to confess those sins to God and, having done so, claim His forgiveness (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9) ... he is to pray for God's power to be able to turn away from those sins in the future]

[Summarize their answers.]

### **3. THE BELIEVER'S JUDGMENT OF HIMSELF** *THE TIME OF THIS JUDGMENT*

[Have someone read page 83.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

### **3. THE BELIEVER'S JUDGMENT OF HIMSELF** **THE RESULT OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 83-84.]

In your reading it was stated, "It is an act of mercy on God's part that He patiently gives us time and opportunities to keep our own sinful practices in check before He has to get involved." This statement implies that – either by the believer himself or by the Father – this judgment of discipline will take place.

? Can you think of a passage of Scripture in which discipline in the life of every believer is promised? [*Hebrews 12:5-13*]

[Have someone read *Hebrews 12:5-13*.]

*MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES. IT IS FOR DISCIPLINE THAT YOU ENDURE; GOD DEALS WITH YOU AS WITH SONS; FOR WHAT SON IS THERE WHOM HIS FATHER DOES NOT DISCIPLINE? BUT IF YOU ARE WITHOUT DISCIPLINE, OF WHICH ALL HAVE BECOME PARTAKERS, THEN YOU ARE ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN AND NOT SONS. FURTHERMORE, WE HAD EARTHLY FATHERS TO DISCIPLINE US, AND WE RESPECTED THEM; SHALL WE NOT MUCH RATHER BE SUBJECT TO THE FATHER OF SPIRITS, AND LIVE? FOR THEY DISCIPLINED US FOR A SHORT TIME AS SEEMED BEST TO THEM, BUT HE DISCIPLINES US FOR OUR GOOD, SO THAT WE MAY SHARE HIS HOLINESS. ALL DISCIPLINE FOR THE MOMENT SEEMS NOT TO BE JOYFUL, BUT SORROWFUL; YET TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY IT, AFTERWARDS IT YIELDS THE PEACEFUL FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. THEREFORE, STRENGTHEN THE HANDS THAT ARE WEAK AND THE KNEES THAT ARE FEEBLE, AND MAKE STRAIGHT PATHS FOR YOUR FEET, SO THAT THE LIMB WHICH IS LAME MAY NOT BE PUT OUT OF JOINT, BUT RATHER BE HEALED. (HEBREWS 12:5-13)*

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

#### 4. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE GENTILE SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

##### THE CONTEXT OF THIS JUDGMENT (MATTHEW 24 AND 25)

[Have someone read pages 85-86.]

To understand the specifics of this Matthew 25 judgment, one must carefully observe the details found within this passage as well as the events immediately preceding it (Matthew 24).

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

#### 4. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE GENTILE SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

##### THE TIME OF THIS JUDGMENT

[Have someone read page 86.]

It was stated that the *time* of this judgment will follow the return of Christ to earth after a period of extreme persecution of the Jewish people.

? What reason was given for this view? [*But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him .... (Matthew 25:31-32).*]

[Summarize their answers.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

#### 4. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE GENTILE SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

##### THE PEOPLE OF THIS JUDGMENT

[Have someone read pages 86-87.]

It was stated that the *people* to be judged will be those Gentiles who survived the horrors of the Great Tribulation (pages 86-87).

? What reason was given for this view? *[This is a judgment of "all the nations," a phrase that refers to Gentiles. Furthermore, these are **living** Gentiles who have the ability to repopulate the earth. Ten centuries later, many of their descendants will seek to overthrow the throne of the King of kings.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

#### **4. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE GENTILE SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION** **THE ISSUE OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read page 87. Take note of footnote 6, page 88.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

The Church is commanded to provide humanitarian relief to those in need. Matthew 25:31-40 is often used to support this action. Yet, in these verses the Church is not helping the poor. The fact is, the Church is not the group being summoned to gather before Christ at His Return. (She will return to earth with Him, Revelation 19:11, 14)! According to the context, this is an examination of a future generation of Gentile believers who are commended by Christ for their care of persecuted Jews during the Great Tribulation.

? But is it wrong for the Church to use this passage to support their benevolence ministries? If so, why? If not, why not? *[It is not a good practice to validate our actions – even appropriate ones – from the wrong passage. If we are willing to do that, all our other **acts of obedience** become suspect (because all our other **interpretations** are suspect). We should support what we do from passages that teach those actions.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Galatians 6:9-10.]

*LET US NOT LOSE HEART IN DOING GOOD, FOR IN DUE TIME WE WILL REAP IF WE DO NOT GROW WEARY. SO THEN, WHILE WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD TO ALL PEOPLE, AND ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF THE FAITH. (GALATIANS 6:9-10)*

[Have someone read James 1:27.]

*PURE AND UNDEFILED RELIGION IN THE SIGHT OF OUR GOD AND FATHER IS THIS: TO VISIT ORPHANS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR DISTRESS, AND TO KEEP ONESELF UNSTAINED BY THE WORLD. (JAMES 1:27)*

#### **4. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE GENTILE SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION THE RESULTS OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read page 88. Take note of footnote 7, page 88]

It was pointed out in this section the *results* of this judgment on the Gentiles: Did their living faith cause them to come to the aid of the persecuted Jews during this period of intense persecution ... or did their lack of faith (or dead faith) cause them to respond to their plight with hostility or indifference? The former will be given citizenship in the Millennial Kingdom of Messiah. The latter will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Today, an anti-Semitic spirit continues to permeate the world.

? What can the New Testament Church do today to minister to the Jews who continue to be objects of this demonic spirit of persecution? [*Speak out against an anti-Semitic remark.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

#### **5. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE JEWISH SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION THE PEOPLE OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read page 89.]

According to the Scriptures, God will judge His people, racial Israel.

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

### **5. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE JEWISH SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION THE TIME OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 89-90.]

According to the Scriptures, God's judgment of racial Israel will take place during the latter half of the Great Tribulation.

*AND WHEN THE DRAGON SAW THAT HE WAS THROWN DOWN TO THE EARTH, HE PERSECUTED THE WOMAN WHO GAVE BIRTH TO THE MALE CHILD. BUT THE TWO WINGS OF THE GREAT EAGLE WERE GIVEN TO THE WOMAN, SO THAT SHE COULD FLY INTO THE WILDERNESS TO HER PLACE, WHERE SHE WAS NOURISHED FOR A TIME AND TIMES AND HALF A TIME (THE LATTER 3½ YEARS OF GREAT TRIBULATION), FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE SERPENT. (REVELATION 12:13-14, PARENTHESIS ADDED)*

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

### **5. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE JEWISH SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION THE PROMISE OF DIVINE PROTECTION**

[Have someone read pages 90-91.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

God has promised to protect His people Israel from total genocide. But there is something else at stake besides the life of the Israeli nation. His reputation is at stake.

- ? How are God's promises and His reputation connected? *[God keeps His promises to protect His reputation. He wants to guard the integrity of both His power and His faithfulness to His covenant-people before the nations ... before Israel ... before the Church ... and before the angelic realm.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**5. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE JEWISH SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION**  
**THE PLACE OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 91-92.]

- "What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"  
 "Was there any information that was *confusing*?"  
 "Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

We learned that the Jews will be forced to flee from their homeland when a man (the antichrist, indwelt by a demon, perhaps Satan himself) will attempt another Jewish genocide.

- ? Why do you think that Satan – throughout Israeli history – has tried to destroy the Jewish people? *[They play a major role in God's (yet-to-be-fulfilled) covenant with Abraham and his descendants. If Satan can completely annihilate the Jewish people, he would have successfully thwarted the promises (the Word) of God; and in doing so, he would destroy the reputation of the One Whose faithfulness to His people and Whose power to deliver them are at stake.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**5. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE JEWISH SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION**  
**THE NATURE OF THIS JUDGMENT**  
**THE RESULT OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 92-94.]

The result of this judgment of the Jews is the same as that of the surviving Gentiles: Those of faith in Messiah will be granted citizenship in the Millennial Kingdom of Messiah. Those who reject their Messiah's Death on the Cross as payment for their sins will be banished from it.

Yet, the LORD does not say in Malachi 3, "I will be a swift witness against those who did not accept My sacrificial system as payment for their." It says, "I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me."

- ? Are not all men saved by grace through faith and not by works? How is the practice of sin related to one's rejection of the Cross? *[There are two kinds of faith; and one of them does not save. The faith that saves is a living faith ... one that – over time – becomes more and more obedient. The faith that does not save is a dead faith ... one that is indifferent toward – or even hostile toward – righteousness. The kind of faith one has will – over time – be revealed by one's conduct.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

## **6. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE EVIL ANGELS (DEMONS)**

### **THE PROGRESSION OF THIS JUDGMENT**

#### **A HISTORY OF THE ANGELS: FROM THEIR CREATION TO THEIR REBELLION**

[Have someone read pages 95-97.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

Satan is portrayed as the lead instigator of rebellion. Defiance against God's authority is true not only among angels but also among humans.

- ? In what ways is rebellion against God's ordained order and authorities prevalent today? *[Violence against law enforcement officers. Male bashing. A disregard of parental authority. Sexual "orientation."]*

[Summarize their answers.]



**6. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE EVIL ANGELS (DEMONS)**  
**SATAN IS CAST TO EARTH AFTER HIS ATTEMPTED OVERTHROW OF GOD'S AUTHORITY**

[Have someone read pages 97-98.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

It was stated in your reading, "To this day, Satan and his demonic hordes roam this earth."

? How should the Church respond to this Truth? *[It should place us "on the alert." It should enhance our dependence on the Lord to protect and empower us against their strategies. It should cause us to use every God-given resource with which to do battle. Etc.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**6. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE EVIL ANGELS (DEMONS)**  
**SATAN'S POWER AND AUTHORITY ARE BROKEN AT THE CROSS OF CHRIST**

[Have someone read page 98.]

It was stated in your reading, "(Satan's) authority and power *over the believer* has been broken by Christ's Work on the Cross."

? How should the Church respond to this Truth? *[We should be encouraged that no sin in our life has the power to keep us in spiritual bondage ... that – because of Christ Jesus – the "strongholds" of our past patterns of sinful behavior have been broken. Claiming this already-completed victory (by saying "No" to the sins that once bound us), the negative consequences of those sins stop mounting.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

**6. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE EVIL ANGELS (DEMONS)**  
**SATAN IS FOREVER EXPELLED FROM HEAVEN'S REALM**

[Have someone read page 99.]

It was stated in your reading, "During the Great Tribulation, Satan will be fully and forever expelled from the heavenly realm. At that time, he and his horde of demons will be confined to the earth."

? Why didn't God just confine them to the abyss? Why would He cast these spiritual forces of darkness to the earth *at this time*? [*The Great Tribulation is a time of God's judgment upon a Christ-rejecting world. He will use Satan to pour out His wrath.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

**6. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE EVIL ANGELS (DEMONS)**  
**SATAN IS IMPRISONED IN THE ABYSS AT THE END OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

[Have someone read page 99.]

We are told that, once the 1,000-year reign of Messiah is over, Satan will be released from this prison.

*WHEN THE THOUSAND YEARS ARE COMPLETED, SATAN WILL BE RELEASED FROM HIS PRISON, AND WILL COME OUT TO DECEIVE THE NATIONS WHICH ARE IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH, GOG AND MAGOG, TO GATHER THEM TOGETHER FOR THE WAR; THE NUMBER OF THEM IS LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEASHORE. AND THEY CAME UP ON THE BROAD PLAIN OF THE EARTH AND SURROUNDED THE CAMP OF THE SAINTS AND THE BELOVED CITY, AND FIRE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND DEVoured THEM. (REVELATION 20:7-9)*

We should take note that, for ten centuries, all of humanity has lived under the best possible conditions, even being delivered from Satan's evil influence during that time. Yet, once Satan is released from the abyss, nations from all over the world are willing to, once again, yield to his deception. Assembling around Jerusalem, they will try to overthrow Messiah's authority over them.

- ? What does that tell you about the nature of man? *[Man continues to have a sin nature, even in the best of environments. Man is incorrigibly inclined toward evil.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

## **6. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE EVIL ANGELS (DEMONS)**

**SATAN IS FOREVER BANISHED TO THE LAKE OF FIRE AFTER THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST**

### **SUMMARY**

[Have someone read page 100.]

- ? Why would a believer's awareness of this truth be a source of satisfaction to him? *[Our sense of justice is satisfied. We can rest assured of our ultimate triumph over evil.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

## **7. GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED**

### **THE TIME OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 101-102.]

Apparently, this Great White Throne Judgment will take place sometime *after* the 1,000-year reign of Christ is over, *after* this present earth and heaven are destroyed but *before* the new heaven and earth are established.

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

**7. GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED**  
**THE PEOPLE OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 102-103.]

In this section evidence was given to support the view that the Great White Throne Judgment is a trial for unbelievers.

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

? What do you think that will be like, for an unbeliever to stand before God in judgment, being reminded of each of his sins and knowing what is at stake if he is found guilty? What might he be thinking ... and feeling? [*stunned, terrified, knowing that everything being said about him is true, desperately trying to think of reasons why he committed each act, horrified to realize that he has no hope of escaping the accusations of the all-knowing Judge before Whom he stands*]

[Summarize their answers.]

**7. GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED**  
**THE ISSUE OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 103-105.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

It was stated that “Every single sin of the unbeliever – each word and each action, committed in public and in private – will be exposed for all to hear.”

[Have someone read Luke 12:2.]

*THERE IS NOTHING COVERED UP THAT WILL NOT BE REVEALED, AND HIDDEN THAT WILL NOT BE KNOWN. (LUKE 12:2)*

[Have someone read Matthew 12:36-37.]

*I TELL YOU THAT EVERY CARELESS WORD THAT PEOPLE SPEAK, THEY SHALL GIVE AN ACCOUNTING FOR IT IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT. FOR BY YOUR WORDS YOU WILL BE JUSTIFIED, AND BY YOUR WORDS YOU WILL BE CONDEMNED. (MATTHEW 12:36-37)*

- ? Why do you think the Lord Jesus Christ is going to expose *every single sin* of the unbeliever? What is His purpose for doing so? *[To validate the justice of God in sentencing him / her to hell. The evidence against the unbeliever will be so great that there will be no doubt as to the justice of his condemnation. The unbeliever will see his life as it really was and be unable to excuse his guilt.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

## **7. GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED**

### **THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read pages 105-106.]

In this section we learned that, when the unbeliever stands before God in judgment, he will not have a defense attorney to represent him. He will be on his own. Individuals will likely be summoned to testify at his trial; but these are witnesses for the prosecution, not for the defense. They will be there to testify against him. We also discovered that the ones who carry out God's sentence of condemnation will be the holy angels.

- ? Suppose you are an observer of this scene ... or even one of those summoned to testify against the lost at the Great White Throne Judgment. What do you think your response to this will be? *[Perhaps we will be filled with grievous pain as we watch unbelievers struggle to defend themselves, watching their horror-stricken faces as they realize they cannot do so. Perhaps we will fall on our knees and thank God for the mercy He showed us through Jesus Christ. Perhaps we will say "Amen," sharing God's sense of perfect justice.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

**7. GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED**  
**THE RESULT OF THIS JUDGMENT**

[Have someone read page 106.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

- ? The Great White Throne Judgment is not God's judgment of the Church. Why, then, do you think this future judgment was revealed to the Church? *[An awareness of what unbelievers face is likely to give the Church a sense of urgency regarding evangelism. Many have unbelieving family members and friends that will face this judgment if they do not hear the Gospel (which is the Church's responsibility) and believe its message (which is the unbeliever's responsibility).]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**7. GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED**  
**THE INTENSITY OF THEIR PUNISHMENT**

[Have someone read pages 106-108.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

It was stated in your reading, "Unless one is resolved to believe and obey the Truth to which he is exposed, knowledge of that Truth will contribute to the intensity of his condemnation."

- ? Is there ever a time to stop *praying* for the one who, time after time after time, has rejected the Gospel? *[No]*

- ? Is there ever a time to stop *presenting a Christ-like life* to the one who, time after time after time, has rejected the Gospel? *[No]*

- ? Is there ever a time to *declare someone a "lost cause"* because, time after time after time, he has rejected the Gospel? [No]
- ? Is there ever a time to stop *presenting the Gospel* to the one who, time after time after time, has rejected it? If no, why not? If yes, why?

[Summarize their answers.]

## **7. GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED** **THE DURATION OF THEIR PUNISHMENT**

[Have someone read page 108.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

- ? What does the eternal destiny of an unrepentant sinner teach you about the character of God? [As sinners, we sometimes think that "the punishment does not fit the crime" ... that Hell is too severe a punishment, even for one who spent his life committing moral crimes. But the sins of man have blinded us to the greatness of God's holiness. We learn from the intensity and duration of this punishment that the holiness of God is infinite ... beyond the comprehension of sinful man. (And because His justice is based upon His holiness, that, too, is infinite ... beyond our comprehension.) Everything about God is beyond our capacity to grasp.]

[Summarize their answers.]

## **A TERRIFYING CONDEMNATION ... A MAGNIFICENT PARDON**

[Have someone read pages 109-110.]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

[Be sure to discuss each issue that is brought up.]

If anyone would like to talk about this issue privately with me or another believer you are close to, I hope you will feel the freedom and ease to do so.

***APPENDIX B***

***THE JUDGMENT SEAT***

[Have someone read page 111.]