

LIVING IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

week 7



NOTES

One of the greatest joys of accepting Jesus as our Savior is the fact that we know that our eternity is settled. As a Christian, you have an eternal home in Heaven after life on this earth! Despite the joys and rewards awaiting us in Heaven, many Christians choose to live for the present.

As a committed follower of Christ, the Bible teaches us that the things of this world will fade away. We can work to gain and build on this earth, or we can choose to work for rewards in Heaven. Jesus Himself speaks to this comparison in Matthew 6:

Matthew 6:19-20

¹⁹ *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*

²⁰ *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*

To live in light of eternity, requires us to understand what we will face on this earth compared to what awaits us in eternity. Over the course of this lesson, we will uncover some Biblical truths to help us comprehend some of the battles on this earth, how Jesus will save the church, and how we can live with eternity in mind during our time on this earth. Let's begin placing our heart in Heaven and not earth.

WE ARE IN A DAILY BATTLE.

Throughout history, many Christians have failed to see that they are in a battle. The Bible teaches that Satan is waging a constant unseen battle with God and the people of God.

Ephesians 6:11-12

CONVERSATION STARTER: *Have you ever had a time in your life where you felt opposition for wanting to do right? Why would there be such a struggle against something that is right?*

THERE IS A WAR BETWEEN SATAN AND GOD.

The Bible teaches that Satan was originally known as Lucifer, and God had placed created him and as a beautiful and powerful angel.

Ezekiel 28:12-15

Pride built up in the heart of Satan and his rebellion against God was unacceptable.

Because of his pride and his desire to be greater than God, Satan was banished from Heaven by God.

Isaiah 14:12-15

Since being expelled from Heaven, Satan has spent his days seeking to destroy God and the work of God. This war started in the Garden of Eden when Satan lied to Eve telling her that she could be equal to God if she disobeyed His command to not eat of the tree.

Genesis 3:1-6

THE BIBLE WARNS THE CHRISTIAN TO BE AWARE OF THE WORK OF SATAN TODAY.

I Peter 5:8

He deceives.

Revelation 12:9

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

He tempts.

Matthew 4:3

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

He accuses.

Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

He lies.

John 8:44

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

He hinders God's servants.

I Thessalonians 2:17-18

¹⁷ But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.



¹⁸ *Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.*

GOD GIVES US WEAPONS IN THE BATTLE.

Satan is a powerful spiritual being, but God has not left us defenseless in the battle. In fact, we the greater power at work in our lives to help us win the battle in our lives between the work of Satan and the work of God.

1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

GOD HAS GIVEN US WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE ARMOR OF GOD.

Ephesians 6:13-18

Let's take a look at the components of the armor of God and how they help us defeat Satan:

- The belt of truth - a confident faith in the truth of the Bible
- The breastplate of righteousness - a protection for our heart to stay right
- The shoes of the preparation of the Gospel of Peace - an ability to properly take and the Gospel with others.
- The shield of faith - a trust in God and His work
- The sword of the Spirit - a power found in the Word of God
- Prayer - a prayer life for yourself and for others

The Bible encourages us to use this armor of God to defeat Satan. As we choose to place the whole armor of God on ourselves, we will see Satan defeated. It is only when we have not properly equipped ourselves for the battle that we Satan having victory in the life of the Christian.

WE ARE PROMISED TO BE VICTORIOUS.

Because of the armor of God, victory over Satan is available to the Christian. While personal victory is promised, sometimes, it seems that Christianity is losing the battle against Satan and the world as a whole. In the pages of Scripture, God gives a glimpse of how He will gain the victory and rule the world for all of eternity. This has become known as the end times or Biblical prophecy.

Let's take a look at each major end time event:

WE ARE LIVING IN THE CHURCH AGE.

As we learned in our last lesson that Jesus paid for the church with His blood according to Acts 20:28. After Christ purchased the church, what has become known as the church age began. As a church, our job is to share the Gospel with



everyone. Jesus left this command to the disciples before ascending back into Heaven.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

During the church age, the Lord promised that the world and the culture would get worse as the last days approached.

2 Timothy 3:1-4

WE WILL BE CAUGHT UP IN THE RAPTURE.

The word rapture means “to be caught up.” The rapture is the Lord’s rescue of the church and Christians from the world. It can occur at any moment.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

The Bible refers to the rapture as the “blessed hope” of all believers. As a committed follower of Christ, we should look forward to when we are raptured from this earth to live eternally with God.

Titus 2:13

CHRISTIANS WILL STAND BEFORE GOD AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

We will look at this more in depth at the end of the lesson, but we will mention it here for chronological purposes.

GOD WILL JUDGE THE WORLD DURING THE TRIBULATION.

For seven years following the rapture, there will be a time of trial and tribulation on earth as God judges those who rejected Him. For the Christian, we will not be on earth to experience what is known as the tribulation.

Matthew 24:21

During this time of judgment, some men will still reject and neglect God.

Revelation 16:9-11

In His desire to still people turn to Him, God will leave two witnesses to preach the Gospel and some (primarily Jews) will be saved from eternal separation from God in Hell.

Revelation 11:3

And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.



CHRIST WILL RETURN TO EARTH AT THE SECOND COMING.

Christ first coming was when He walked on earth as recorded in the four Gospels of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Christ will return the second time to earth to defeat the one-world government and one-world religion established by Anti-Christ during the tribulation. The battle is known as the Battle of Armageddon. Christ will defeat the forces of evil with the forces of Heaven (including those who have been in Heaven with Him) to begin the establishment of His kingdom.

Revelation 19:11-16, 19-21

CHRIST WILL RULE OVER THE EARTH IN THE MILLENNIAL REIGN.

For one thousand years, Jesus Christ will rule over the over all the earth as King.

Revelation 20:4

...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years

Isaiah 65:25

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.

UNBELIEVERS WILL BE JUDGED AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT.

At the close of the millennial reign, those who rejected Christ as their Savior will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment. This judgment is only for the unsaved.

Revelation 20:11-15

At this time, Satan will be forever defeated and banished to eternal torment in Hell.

Revelation 20:10

GOD WILL CREATE A NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH.

God will replace this sin-cursed world with a perfect new world and new Heaven.

Revelation 21:1

The eternal focus of this new heaven and new earth will be the worship and praise of God for all of eternity.

Revelation 22:1-5

WE SHOULD LIVE TODAY IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY.

As we understand the end times, it is not intended to freeze us, rather, it is intended to fuel our lives and our commitment to God. We do not know when God could call us home or rapture the entirety of Christianity, therefore, we should desire to



live for God right now. Let's look at a couple practical ways in which we can do that:

STUDY THE WORD OF GOD.

In lesson one, we discussed the power found within the Word of God. As a Christian and a committed follower of Jesus Christ, we should study God's to enhance our relationship with God and to be properly equipped for the battles of life.

2 Timothy 2:15

Not only does Bible study help prepare us for the day and the end times, but it also has the Lord's blessings attached to it.

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then shalt thou make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

SHARE THE GOSPEL REGULARLY.

In one of our future lessons, we will go through how to effectively share the Gospel. Sometimes Christians feel as though the basic spiritual disciplines are enough. God's plan does not work if we fail to share the Gospel with others. This idea is not just a recommendation, but it is a command.

Mark 16:15-16

REMEMBER THAT WE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT.

During the tribulation on earth, Christians will be standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ giving an account for their lives.

2 Corinthians 5:10

The Judgment Seat of Christ is different than the Great White Throne Judgment. It is not intended to determine where we will spend eternity or to judge us for every wicked thing we have done. Both of those were covered with blood of Jesus Christ.

The Judgment Seat is often compared to the ancient bema seat where athletic competitors would receive their rewards from the judge. Just those athletes received their rewards, Christians will receive their rewards for their lives and actions on earth from the Great Judge.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

Scripture mentions at least five rewards or crowns that we can receive in Heaven. Each child of God should have a desire to win these crowns for the glory of God. Let's examine the crowns given in Scripture:

The Crown of Righteousness: given to those who look forward to the return of Christ.

2 Timothy 4:8

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the



Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

The Crown of Life: given to those who are martyrs and those who overcome temptation.

Revelation 2:10

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

The Incorruptible Crown: given to those who exhibit temperance in their lives. This crown is a result of a life yielded to the Holy Spirit's control.

1 Corinthians 9:25

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

The Crown of Rejoicing: given to those who have given their lives to reaching others with the Gospel of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming.

The Crown of Glory: given to those who help lead people faithfully in the WORD of God.

1 Peter 5:4

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

The greatest joy of receiving a crown is that we will have the privilege to cast our crowns at the feet of our Savior.

Revelation 4:10-11

We may never completely be able to wrap our minds around all that God has in store in the last days, but we should take comfort knowing that He is in control. As we go throughout life here on earth, let not get trapped in living for the present, but for eternity. Let's some look at some practical ways that will help us with that:

Because we are in a daily battle, we must prepare ourselves spiritually to fight Satan. Will you choose to place the armor of God on to be able to stand against Satan? Will you choose to be aware of the attacks that Satan might hurl your way so



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that you? Will you choose to fight Satan?

Because we know that there is victory for the Christian, we should desire to see as many people saved as we can. Would you commit to sharing the Gospel with others so that they may never experience the perils of the end of the world and eternal Hell?

Because we are going to be with Christ for all of eternity, commit to living each day for the glory of God and with the thought that Jesus could come back today. Would you commit to living in a way that Christ would be pleased and people helped? Would you commit to living to earn heavenly rewards and not earthly rewards?

