

The Greatest Story Ever Told

Sermon Study Guide for 2/17/08

Life in the New Age: New Sense of Time: Living in Light of Judgment I Corinthians 3



The writer to the Hebrews summed it up like this—“for it is appointed for a man to die once, and after this comes judgment”. Yes it is true, at the end of life every one of us will stand in front of Jesus and give an accounting of our lives. For unbelievers the judgment will be swift—if their names are not in the Book of Life they will be thrown in the lake of fire (the place of eternal judgment). For believers it is different. Our judgment is not about sin (our sins are washed away), but about stewardship. What did we do, whether good or bad, with this life God gave us? It is primarily a place of rewards, a place to look forward to if we are good stewards of our lives.

Optional Readings (for those who want to dig a little deeper)

Revelation 20:11-15

The Great White Throne



TIME IN THE WORD

READ & OBSERVE

Write down anything you find interesting or unique about 1 Cor. 3:1-17

ANSWER

The Not So Positive Setting. 1 Cor. 3:1-9

Seems like the Corinthian church had a problem—what was it? Paul calls them “worldly”. In what part of their lives were they manifesting “worldly” living?

Does this kind of worldliness still exist today in churches? Give an example.

In verses 5-9 the apostle puts this whole “division” thing in perspective. How does he describe the different roles that he and Apollos played in the lives of the Corinthians? What is it that makes “division” or “allegiances” in the church so ridiculous?

The Building Judgment. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

This whole paragraph is centered on how we “build” as Christians. What exactly is it that we are building? (see Matthew 16:17-19 or remember last week’s sermon)

Paul says there are different kinds of things we can use to build with—what are they? Are some by their very nature better than others? Why?

Notice that all this building is done on the same foundation. What is it? Why would it be a bad idea to build on a different foundation?

There will be a “Day” when all this work is judged. Work well done will stand. Work poorly done will be burned up. Describe what kinds of work will best endure on the day of judgment.

What happens to people whose work is “burned up”? Are they sent to hell or does something else happen? What kind of rewards do folks get whose work is proven to stand?

The Final Warning. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

The church is called “God’s temple”. It is a special place in which the Spirit of God lives. What does this passage say about anyone who is destructive in the temple?



TIME FOR THE HEART

Life in Christ is all about building--- building a passionate love of the Savior and building a great church on this earth. Where do you see yourself as a builder? When the “Day” comes, what will you hope to have built that will be greatly rewarded? If right now those are hard questions to answer, ask your small group what they see as your greatest strengths in building.



Time for my world

Believe it or not, we are in the Lenten season. It is a time of reflection and preparation for Easter. This would be a very good season to ask God to give you eyes to see this world the way He does. To have passion for people who do not yet know Him, but folks that He is calling into an eternal relationship. Ask God to use you in the great harvest that is ongoing in the kingdom of heaven.