

## ARE YOU READY? MATTHEW 25:13

### INTRODUCTION:

1. When Jesus comes, what will happen if I am lost? What will happen if I am saved?
2. In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus warns about the need to be prepared. (Matt. 25.13; cf. 24.42,44).
3. The parable of the talents we learn how to be prepared which Jesus follows up by explaining what happens if we are saved.

### I. THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- A. The Assignment of stewards. (Matt. 25.14)
  1. Oikonomos: Ruler of the house. (1 Cor. 4.1,2)
  2. Epitropos: To turn over. (Matt. 20.8)
- B. The Administration of the assignment. (Matt. 25.15-18)
  1. A talent was a measurement of weight. The value was determined what is being weighed. (1 Kings 9.14)
  2. These talents were given according to each servant's abilities. (Matt. 25.16-18)
- C. The Accounting. (Matt. 25.19-25)
  1. The first servant with five talents. (vs. 20,21)
  2. The second servant with two talents. (vs. 22,23)
  3. The third servant with one talent. (vs. 24,25)
- D. The Assessment. (Matt. 25.26-30)
  1. **VERSE 26:** "wicked". Literally, harmful.
  2. **VERSE 26:** "lazy". Was unwilling to work.
  3. **VERSE 30:** "unprofitable" Nothing to show.

### II. THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

- A. If Jesus comes and I am saved, I will be invited to go home.
  1. **MATTHEW 25.34:** "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father...'"
  2. How beautiful heaven must be! (Rev. 21.16-21)
  3. A home prepared from the beginning. (v. 34)
- B. If Jesus comes and I am saved, I will be glad I was a servant.
  1. We can help people physically. (v. 35)
  2. We can help people socially. (v. 35)
  3. We can help people medically. (v. 36)

**CONCLUSION:** When Jesus comes, will you be ready?

## NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. | North Las Vegas, NV | 89030  
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: [pruittl@outlook.com](mailto:pruittl@outlook.com)  
[www.appliedchristiansstudies.com](http://www.appliedchristiansstudies.com)

Be sure to watch us live at [www.nlvchurchofchrist.com](http://www.nlvchurchofchrist.com)  
Facebook: Chris Pruitt

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"  
-Mark 16.15

September 23, 2018

### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

### GOD'S POWER TO SAVE

A question that is asked relates to God's ability to save. If God is all-powerful as the Bible describes Him, then why does He not just swoop down and save all of mankind? Why does He require us to go through the process of meeting the conditions of the gospel when He could just snap His fingers and bring everyone to heaven?

Such a question is not an uncommon one and is answered by God Himself. To the prophet Isaiah, God said, "*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy that He cannot hear*" (Isa. 59.1). Earlier, when God called Israel to receive salvation no one came. He considered that the reason for their absence is because they had no confidence in God's power. Therefore He asks rhetorically, "*Is My hand shortened that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver*" (Isa. 50.2)?

The reason God does not save all man automatically has nothing to do with His lack of ability and has everything to do with the will of man. Just as God gives man the freedom to sin and put himself in a lost condition, God also gives man the freedom to accept or refuse His salvation. While God's hand is not shortened, He states that man has decided not to come to God for salvation (Isa. 50.2), and to separate himself from God by sinning (Isa. 59.2).

## THE CHURCH THAT BELONGS TO CHRIST

### 2 PETER 2:9

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a great deal of confusion and frustration in reference to the Bible concept of the Lord's church.
2. Are we the only ones going to heaven? Two extreme answers:
  - a) We answer in a way that is harsh instead of touching hearts.
  - b) We answer in a way that is evasive and compromise truth.
3. The Bible tells us about the church and how to be a part of it.

#### I. THE BIBLE CONCEPT OF THE CHURCH

- A. The church of the Bible is exclusive. (2 Pet. 2.9)
  1. "A chosen people" Literally spoken out of the world.
  2. "A royal priesthood." Priests were exclusive.
  3. "A holy nation" Literally, separated. (cf. Rev. 4.8)
  4. "His own special people." Unique from everyone else.
- B. The church in the Bible is described in many different ways.
  1. It is a kingdom. (Matt. 16.18,19; Col. 1.13)
  2. It is a flock of sheep. (Acts 20.28; 1 Pet. 5.2)
  3. It is a body. (Eph. 1.22,23; 4.12)
  4. It is a household. (1 Tim. 3.15)
  5. It is a possession. (1 Cor. 1.2; Rom. 16.16)
- C. The church of the Bible is singular.
  1. There is "one body." (Eph. 4.4-6)
  2. That one body is the church. (Eph. 1.22,23)
- D. The church of the Bible has exclusive blessings.
  1. Spiritual blessings are only in Christ. (Eph. 1.3)
  2. Those who are in Christ are of the church. (1 Cor. 1.2)
  3. The spiritual blessings we enjoy. (Eph. 1.4-7)
- E. The church of the Bible is not composed of all the religious. (Matt. 7.21-23; Acts 10.1,2,43; 17.22,30; Rom. 10.1-3)

#### II. HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF HIS CHURCH?

- A. Who are the members of the church of the Bible?
  1. **1 PETER 2.9:** Reference is made to His people.
  2. **1 PETER 2.9:** His people are those who obtained mercy.
- B. How do I obtain mercy and become a member of His church? (Acts 10.43; 5.31; 22.16; Rom. 10.10; Acts 2.41,47)

**CONCLUSION:** Are you a member of His church?

## THE NATURE OF TIME

It seems as though it is ever changing. Sometimes it drags on when we are anxiously waiting for some future event. Other times it passes in a flash and we wonder where the time went. Yet time is a constant. The ticking of the clock does not speed up or slow down. The years do not linger when we are young and rush by when we are older. It is our perception that changes.

The Psalmist observed that man's lifespan extends to seventy years and if he is in good health it may extend to eighty (Ps. 90.10). If we were to take all the people who died in the last hundred years it would indeed average somewhere between seventy and eighty. However, the fact remains that no one knows how many years they will have on earth. Some lives may extend into triple digits while others may leave this earth at sixty, forty, or even while still a child.

All this emphasizes one simple point. We need to live our lives to the fullest. We ought always to take advantage of every opportunity to do good that comes our way "redeeming the time" (Eph. 5.16; Col. 4.5). Every one of us is given the same twenty-four hours in a day, but not everyone uses those hours to their fullest potential. Some are productive squeezing every moment he can to accomplish some good, while others squander their lives accomplishing nothing. Methuselah was the oldest man to ever live leaving this earth at 969 years old (Gen. 5.27), yet the inspired text does not record a single good thing that he ever did.

But what can I do? There is never a time when one does not have something that he can do. No one should ever be at a loss of what to do, for opportunities are all around. The question lies not in the lack of opportunities, but in the lack of desire to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves, or the desire to do something else. Paul writes, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all especially to those of the household of faith" (Gal. 6.10). Even when there is no opportunity to do good to another there is always an opportunity to do good. Spend time with the family. Spend time in prayer. Spend time reading the Bible. Spend time in quiet meditation.

There is time. But that time will not always be available. Take the time to do good before your time is up. CLP