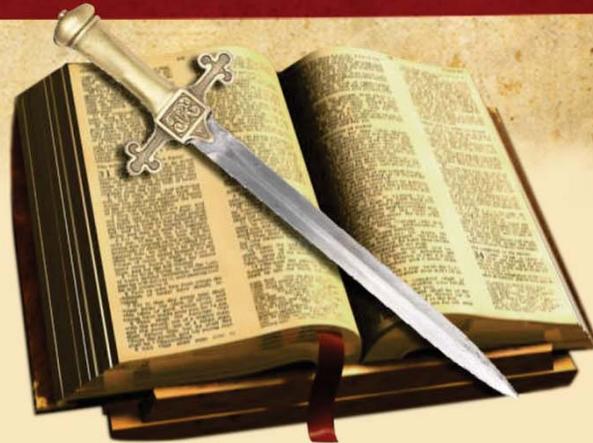


Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



JUDE

When Your Life Is Over, How Will God Judge You?

(The Principle of: Eternal Redemption; Unbelievable Mercy)

Jude 24-25

It's read in thousands of churches across America. It's usually the closing statement proclaimed by pastors just before the saints make a mad dash to eat their Sunday lunch. It signals the end of the "casual" Christian's weekly religious obligation to attend church. It marks the time when mothers hurriedly gather their belongings to pick up the kids from Children's Church. Men check their watches to see if they can still make their "tee time" or catch the first half of the game. Teenagers yawn, waiting for the pastor to finish so they can finally "hang-out" with their friends. They've heard this benediction so many times that most don't even listen to the words. *Sadly, they miss one of the most powerful declarations contained in all of Scripture...the pronouncement of our eternal redemption made possible only by God's unbelievable mercy!*

It was an entirely different matter for the saints of the first century. The final words of Jude's epistle made battle-weary hearts leap for joy. It brought peace to sin-burdened souls and caused even the most conservative men to praise God with open tears. Listen again, dear saints! Don't miss what God has done for you. *Incredibly, God "is able to keep you from stumbling!"* This means that every time you fall into sin, He is "able" (literally, He has "on-going power") through the blood of Jesus to cleanse you from all sin (*1 John 1:7*). Then finally, when your life is over and you meet the Lord face to face, He will *"make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy!"* Can you possibly grasp this truth? *If you trust the Savior and embrace His saving grace, you will actually be SINLESS before God and WILL NOT BE JUDGED (John 5:24)!* How can these things be...especially knowing all the sinful thoughts, words and deeds you've committed in your life? Jude answered this too. We owe it all to the King of God's Kingdom...*"the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever! Amen!"*

But tragically, for those who either rejected the Savior or never had heart-felt faith in His work, the end of their lives will not be pretty (*Matt. 7:21-23*). *So, the next time you hear this glorious benediction, weep for joy dear believer! Bow your heart before the King of kings! God's mercy, beyond comprehension, has given you redemption for all eternity!*

Next: The Kingdom of God in Revelation - The Real You... When the World Ends?

