

'RIGHT & READY'

(Sunday Bible Study Series: 'Ready or Not, Jesus Is Coming!') **Studies in 1 Thessalonians**

***"...abide in Him (the Lord Jesus) that when He appears,
we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming...
we know that when He is revealed we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."
1 John 2:28, 3:2-3***

Some travelers pack wisely; others just stuff whatever in their bags foolishly at the last minute. Some even try to take things that will not be allowed into their destination country for travel. If one wants to avoid confiscation of luggage contents they should make very sure they only pack whatever is legally allowed where they are going.

Unfortunately, there are some Christians who try to cram a lot of stuff into their lives that will never pass the custom's entry point of heaven. It will be very sad and embarrassing at the port of entry when much of what believers spent their lives on and wearied themselves to attain is destroyed as illegal contraband at the Judgment Seat of Christ (***Romans 14:11-12, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:9-11***).

Immediately after the joyous reunion in the air following the rapture, believers will have the baggage of their lives examined for meritorious work for the Lord or for unreconciled, worthless things that need to be eliminated. Rewards for faithful Christian living and service will be rewarded; tainted things of this life will be incinerated. Those with rewards will have the privilege of giving them back to Jesus for He is the One Who deserves the glory and honor (***Revelation 4:10-11***).

Others without much to show for the grace God gave them will watch their flammable, sin-tainted baggage go up in smoke. As you prepare to travel up at the rapture, be sure you are packing 'good works' (***Ephesians 2:8-10***) that will pass inspection and be allowed into the holy districts of your heavenly home.

Meditation

You should always pack your bags according to the place you are going. You won't need snow shoes in the tropics or snorkels in the mountains. As you prepare to go to heaven someday, are you packing your life full of things that will be appropriate there? How much of your life is just kindling for the fire and how much of it is spiritual gifts for Your Savior? We haven't departed yet. Maybe you should consider repacking your life with things that will matter upon arrival there

Prayer

Lord, help me review the things I'm packing into my life. By Your grace help me make more space for the things You want me to bring home when I come. I can only do so much with me, so help me not waste space on firewood. Amen.

‘The Times & Seasons?’
(The Biblical ‘Last Days’ Security System)
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

‘Day of The LORD’
(The coming time of ‘Tribulation’)

*“But **concerning the times and seasons**, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For **you, yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night**. For when they say “Peace and safety!” sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.” 5:1-3*

Dusk of ‘The Church Age’
(The concluding season of grace)

*“But you, **brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief**. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness. Therefore let us not sleep as others do but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breast-plate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.” 5:4-8*

Doom’s Day Preparations
(The consolation of God’s Word)

*“For **God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ**, Who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.” 5:9-11*