

# Live Your Life in Light of Eternity

Colossians 2:18b

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18b **Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize**

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To be distributed at the **Judgment Seat of Christ**

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

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9 **I strive throughout my life to be acceptable to the Lord**

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10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

Not sins, for they were taken care of at the cross.

Whether something is good or bad depends on the norm or standard by which it is being judged. Here whether something is good or bad according to God.

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Here the Greek word for **bad** means **worthless**.

A believer may give money or sing or even pray, or witness or preach, be moral, etc.; **but** if he does these things in the flesh – they are **worthless** before God and the believer receives no **reward**. However, if he or she does these things in the power of the Holy Spirit they are of **spiritual worth** before God and are evaluated as **good**, and rewards are given by **JESUS CHRIST** to that believer.

**Good**—those things done in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Bad**—those things done in the energy of the flesh.

So, the basis of judgment at the Judgment Seat of Christ is time the believer walks by power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

This is why there are so many exhortations of the believer and his/her Faith in the Holy Spirit.

- Be Filled with the Holy Spirit,
  - Walk by the Holy Spirit,
    - Be led by the Holy Spirit;
      - Live by the Holy Spirit and
        - Keep in Step with the Holy Spirit.

And people look at the DIVINE 9;  
where there are 9 FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT listed...  
these are the fruit of the Holy Spirit not of you,

but they are fruit of the Holy Spirit and

**WHEN WE WALK BY FAITH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT  
THESE ARE POURED INTO US** and our lives by the  
Holy Spirit and

we are rewarded

for what the Holy Spirit does

or

for what the Holy Spirit produces in us.

Before our judge, **JESUS CHRIST**, all the human good we do in the flesh is nothing to Him and is considered **bad**.

All that is done in the Holy Spirit is considered **good** and He rewards for these.

1 Corinthians 4:5

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- 5 **Therefore** the Greek conjunction relates what follows closely with what preceded; what preceded?
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Verse 4

**For I am conscious of nothing against myself,**

Paul is not declaring that there is nothing wrong with him, we know this from Romans 7, **o wretched man that I am**

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Verse 4

**For I am conscious of nothing against myself yet I am not by this acquitted**

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This is a courtroom setting, therefore, the King James is correct ***justified; yet I am not by this justified but the one who examines me***

King James is correct here –***judges me is the Lord.***

**Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time,**

King James **Therefore judge nothing before the time;**

Greek text: **therefore not before time anything do you judge**

Now the importance of the Greek text is emphasis; the Greek places emphasis by the placement of words or phrases; here the Greek emphasizes **not before the time.**

**Before *what time?***

This will be answered in the next part of this verse, but this refers to the time of the **Judgment Seat of Christ**.

## **Anything**

This is important. This is an indefinite pronoun which means this does not refer to any specific act or acts whether sin or not sin, whether what is considered good or bad.

**anything do you judge** Woe—what about passages like  
2 Thessalonians 3:6

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6 **Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.**

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Or the strong language of 2 Thessalonians 3:14

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14 **If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.**

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Are you not 'judging' your brother? No!

You are making a judgement or assessment about yourself. The Greek word used in our passage about not judging One Another is the Greek word *krino* and it covers some 3 columns in the Greek Lexicon to explain the variations of the use of this word. It can mean to make a 'judgment' in one's own mind about what is right or wrong. Then it can mean to make a judgment – in a judicial setting, with condemnation and sentence.

*One way to express what is going on is to look at a young football player or soccer player, etc.—who during the off season got into the habit of running around with his/hers friends—eating junk food, staying up late, etc. Then as the season approaches, makes a decision about themselves...they need to be in good physical condition, so they stop hanging around their friends so much, and stop staying up late so they can get some sleep, etc. They are not judging their friends, they are simply making a decision about their own lives and what they wish to do or be.*

## **5 therefore not before time anything do you judge**

And to make this very clear note **anything**; it is not up to us to make judgment about the ‘good’ that others do. We do not know if they are Filling of the Holy Spirit or not – so, we can merely state they give all appearances of the Spiritual life, but it is up to JESUS CHRIST to ‘judge’.

**Therefore, not before time anything do you judge  
*but wait until the Lord comes***

You will notice that ‘**but wait**’ is not in in Greek text, but is placed there by understanding.

## **Until**

This is that biblical warning that something is to continue up to a Divinely appointed time; some event will end what precedes and set into motion that which follows. Here, during our lives here on earth during the Church Age we are to refrain from judging other believers... until... introduces the end of the Church Age or the Rapture of the Church or ‘the great snatch’.

That is the removal of all those who believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior from the earth.

**until the Lord comes**

We have studied this in 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Matthew 24-25.

There are two major points in history that refer to the 'coming of the Lord':

1<sup>st</sup>

## At the Rapture of the Church.

2<sup>nd</sup>

## At the Second Advent of Christ

This one is the coming of the Lord to receive those believers Raptured from earth at the end of the Church Age.

At this point JESUS CHRIST will rise up from the Throne of God, where He now sits and make His movement toward the earth.

He will not touch the earth  
but simply '**come**' toward the earth.

This dramatic event in history is described in

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.

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15 **For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. Died**

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16 **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

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17 **Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.**

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18 **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**  
And these words are most comforting at a funeral.

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**16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,**

But what we are looking at is the '*COMING OF THE LORD*' and this refers to His Coming after the **Rapture of the Church**, where all believers during the Church Age will rise up—from the earth—to **MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR.**

He does not touch earth **until** His return to the earth.  
Then He will 'return' at the Second Advent;

He will return to end the great battle at Armageddon and remove all unbelieving Gentiles from earth and remove all unbelieving Jews from earth,

(These removals are called **Baptism Of Fire**).

And then JESUS CHRIST will enter Jerusalem, calling believing Jews from all over the earth to Israel and establish His kingdom and celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb, which all believers of the Church Age will attend as the bride of Christ. Between the removal of the Church and the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom the last 7 years promised to Israel will take place known as the **Tribulation.**

The Tribulation will take place on earth.

But during these 7 years on Earth, Something Else Will Be Going on In Heaven... The JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

**Therefore, not before time anything do you judge**

***but wait until the Lord comes***

And now we have another way of expressing what is going to take place at the Judgment Seat of Christ than we saw in 2 Corinthians 5:10.

**who** After He has received from the Holy Spirit His bride

**will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness**

We studied how no one knows what is going on in the souls of another, save Jesus Christ, our righteous judge...

Just think on this phrase:

***light ... on things in darkness and light will disclose motives.***

**IF YOU CAN'T DO THIS...THEN DO NOT JUDGE OTHERS!**

It is a rather alarming thought that JESUS CHRIST knows our every thought and motive! Even if we ourselves are not sure!

**Bring to light the things hidden in the darkness Hidden in darkness:**



Unseen by the world—and what is hidden in darkness?  
**POWER AND MINISTRY AND FRUIT AND WORKS OF HOLY SPIRIT! THE WORLD CANNOT SEE WHAT IS DONE IN HOLY SPIRIT, IN FACT WE CANNOT EVEN SEE WHAT IS DONE IN HOLY SPIRIT IN OTHERS.**

Hidden in your soul, and, therefore, darkness to others, but the Light of JESUS CHRIST illuminates the secrets of our souls.

Things in Darkness refers to production not seen by world.

**and disclose or manifest the motives of men's hearts**

This Greek word is often translated, **WILL** or **DECISION** or **PURPOSE**;

the Lord knows in everything we do, what is our purpose—is it, was it to glorify JESUS CHRIST –or to satisfy self; the only way it can glorify JESUS CHRIST is by power of the Holy Spirit.

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**IF WE HAVE MADE A DECISION OF FAITH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DO HIS WILL IN US.**

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The Lord knows ALL that we do in His Spirit.

**and then** (and not until then) **each man's praise**

**Each man** (Each and every believer in the Church Age;)

**Praise** (Is best understood here as) **vindication.**

## **Will come to him from God**

Not from man—but from God—God does not praise anyone other than Himself but God does and will vindicate—

2 Corinthians 10:18

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18 **For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.**

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1 Peter 1:6-7

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6 **In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,**

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7 **so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**

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Here we come to the all-important question:

***FAITH IN WHAT or WHOM?***

Rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be based upon **the proof of your faith.**

We know the object of Faith in phase 1 or in Salvation one or for eternal life is Faith in JESUS CHRIST. And the object of Faith in phase 2 or in Salvation 2 or in living the Christian Way of Life is in the third member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit.

The object of your Faith is 'hidden' but not hidden from JESUS CHRIST the righteous judge.

Two people give, two people help others, etc., both are seen by the world, but only one is seen by God as proof of their Faith. Only one is rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ, the one who lived by the Filling of the Holy Spirit and allowed the Holy Spirit to perform His works through us.

Romans 2:28-29

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28 **For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.**

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29 **But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.**

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It is the Holy Spirit who produces those things acceptable to JESUS CHRIST and how do we tap into the work of the Holy Spirit? **"by grace through faith, it is not of yourselves"**

1 Corinthians 4:5

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5 **Therefore, not before time anything do you judge *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness**

**and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts;**

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The verb to ***disclose*** means to make visible, conspicuous; to make apparent, to show or reveal openly.

Now what is going to be made manifest for all to see?

**The motives of the hearts.**

The Greek word translated **MOTIVES** refers to the purpose or estimation of the hearts.

**and then each man's praise will come to him from God.**

I am sorry but the King James is in error trying to make this say something it does not say: **praise of God**

But this is corrected in the New King James: **praise from God.**

Now let us take a look at '**PRAISE**' actually **COMMENDATION!**

You will recall in 2 Corinthians 5:10—**RECOMPENSE.**

Both words refer to rewards received at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

**From God**

JESUS CHRIST is the judge and GOD THE FATHER is the Rewarder!

Revelation 22:12

- (1) **"Behold, I am coming quickly,** and
- (2) **My reward *is* with Me,**
- (3) **To render to every man**
- (4) **According to what he has done.**

This is a **verse of motivation** in two ways:

1. The Lord will return.  
Are you living in light of His eminent return?
2. Are you living in anticipation of receiving rewards if you have lived by Faith?

### **Behold I am coming quickly**

JESUS CHRIST is coming to call His Church home.

The coming of the Lord is a strong part of Old Testament Prophecy

Habakkuk 2:3

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3 **“For the vision is yet for the appointed time;**

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This verse is not speaking of His coming for the Church but specifically **His Second Advent**, but some 7 years before His Second Advent He will come for His Church, but we can gather a richness for His coming for the Church.

### **It hastens toward the goal**

Our passage in Revelation 22:12 states His goal **and it will not fail.** He is coming **Though it tarries**, seems to us humans as if this is a long time, but we are to **wait for it**; redeem the time by living by Faith **For it will certainly come, it will not delay.**

This theme of His coming quickly flows through the book of Revelation 1:3

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3 **Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.**

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Revelation 3:3

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3 **So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.**

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And one that fits right into our study of receiving rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ: Revelation 3:11

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11 **'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.**

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Remember the wording of Colossians 2:18

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18 ***let no one keep defrauding you of your prize***

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Revelation 16:15

15 **("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.")**

Revelation 22:7

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7 **"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."**

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And as a final reminder at the end of the book of Rev.

Revelation 22:20

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20 **He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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Revelation 22:12

- (1) **"Behold, I am coming quickly, and**
- (2) **My reward *is* with Me,**
- (3) **To render** (-to give) **to every man** (every believer in JESUS CHRIST)
- (4) **According to what he has done**  
(2 Corinthians 5:10 adds **whether good or bad**)

Are you living in light of eternity?

Are you living in preparation  
to stand before JESUS CHRIST at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

The future is overwhelming! For most believers of the Church Age, you have died physically here on earth, and for that one fraternity of believers who will be alive when the Rapture occurs.

But whichever group you will rise up in resurrection, receiving your Resurrected bodies, taken up into the sky and meet the Lord in the air. Then you will immediately stand before your Savior who is now your judge of your life.

Again, no loss of Salvation. This is to stand in judgment of your time on earth. JESUS CHRIST will judge as to what you did in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit (**GOOD**) and what you did in the energy of the flesh. (**BAD**)

Are you living in preparation for  
**The JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?**