

The Blessed Hope!

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)

Diamond & Nugget #323

Current Events through a Biblical World View!

Have You Ever Wondered...

- **Is the glass half-full or half-empty?**
- **Are you an optimist or a pessimist?**
- **Can genetics explain why some people are pessimists?**

Want to perform a quick and easy psychological test on friends and family members? Grab a clear glass from the cupboard and fill it halfway with water. Place it on the table and ask friends and family members to describe it.

Some people will probably say the glass is half-full. Others may look at it and proclaim that it's half-empty. Since both groups would be correct, what does this test tell you?

Psychologists use simple tests like this to determine whether a person tends to be an optimist or a pessimist. Optimists will usually say the glass is half-full, whereas pessimists will usually point out that it's half-empty. Optimists tend to focus on the good: there is still water available to drink. Pessimists, on the other hand, see the negative: there is water missing from what otherwise could be a full glass.

Optimists tend to look on the bright side. They are hopeful and search for the good even in bad situations. Pessimists, on the other hand, tend to be more negative. While some pessimists will claim they're merely being realists, they do usually search for and find the black cloud behind every silver lining.

Optimists aren't happy all the time, and pessimists aren't unhappy all the time. Every person experiences a range of emotions — both good and bad, positive and negative — in a typical day, week, or month. *"Happily ever after"* only happens in fairy tales.

We all face obstacles. However, how we respond to those obstacles can make all the difference in the world. Optimists tend to see obstacles as opportunities. As a result,

optimists who expect good things to happen will take actions that lead to positive results.

Pessimists, meanwhile, can be easily stymied by obstacles. When they expect negative results, they often fail to do the types of things that could've minimized or prevented those negative results.

Scientists who have studied optimism have found that those who see the glass as half-full tend to be happier, healthier, and even wealthier. But is it all just a matter of maintaining a positive attitude? Maybe not!

Some researchers now believe that your genes might play a critical role in determining whether you focus on the positive or the negative. In fact, recent studies have shown that there is a genetic component to whether one tends to be an optimist or a pessimist. Even if you're genetically predisposed to look at the negative side of things, you can be more optimistic with some practice. Every negative situation presents the opportunity to view it in a different light. With a little effort, it's possible to choose to take life's lemons and make lemonade!



Over the past months a few readers have replied to particular Blessed Hope segments and would say or comment to the affect, *"Where is the Blessed Hope in that....."* In the length of time I have been doing the series, which began with the Covid scandemic, my focus has been to give encouragement for this time and place where we are biding time until the Lord draws the curtain shut on the Church Age and devotes His focus on bringing the Jews to repentance.

On January 3rd of 2024 I underwent a surgical procedure which ten days later I was told that I had bladder cancer and had less than a year to live. I took the diagnosis with the attitude I was not going to take the path that 75% of the population follows, i.e., radiation, chemotherapy, or surgery. I chose to pursue other methods of dealing with my death sentence. I spent the better part of January researching alternative methods of defeating cancer. I have a full all-rounded therapy regimen that I am following and hope to disprove the doctor and the AMA, at least in my case, there are less invasive means to defeat, or to contain, and delay the final outcome of bladder cancer. I will simply state that my regimen seems to be effective but without scans it will be difficult to confirm it is working. But my point here is I have not conceded to its outcome!

Social Security Entitlements - Broke. The Big LIE

By HELENA GLASS
APRIL 10, 2024

Where oh where has our Social Security gone? The Net Balance in the Fund is **\$2,699,365,000,000**. Total collections for FY 2023 were **\$2,735,301,000,000** on disbursements of **\$1,433,349,000,000**. Why is this notable? Because the SS Administration does not recognize payments into Social Security as a loan or debt earning interest and payable to Taxpayers – **The Big Lie**.

Our Government is claiming that Social Security is in fact – a Tax and accounting for it on that basis. Technically, they should be stewards of money on loan and instead they are making a profit - **\$1,301,952,000,000**. ALL Taxpayer Funds (less Operating Administrative costs) are invested in nonmarketable Treasuries. The interest on Federal Treasuries rivals that of a CD at 3.5%.

According to a Footnote to the Financials: *“Accounts receivable from the public consists of monies due to the SSA and to beneficiaries in excess of their entitlement, as well as amounts due from the states to cover underpayments to the recipients”*. In addition upward of \$500 billion of CoVid loans that were cancelled – were written off against Social Security. Of that, the Small Business Administration (SBA) estimates that \$200 billion in forgiven PPP loans were given ‘fraudulently’ – 40%. How lovely....

IF you had invested \$100 in the S&P in 1980 (as savings) it would be worth \$12,097.47 with an average annual return of 11.61%. Essentially giving the government the difference in value of 8.11% (11.61% - 3.5%). Play money for them – debt for you. And this doesn't even touch the COST for the government to administer your annual loss. In the real world – this mismanagement of funds would be a lawsuit.

Last year, the Social Security Administration determined that inflation was 3%, therefore your benefit payment rose by just 3%. This is the data released to support the current rate of 3.8%: Food up 5.5%, shelter up 5.7%, vehicle insurance up 20.6%, medical up 1.4%, recreation up 2.1%, electricity up 3.6%, utility cost down 8.2%, gasoline down 3.9%, fuel oil down 5.4%, and personal care up 4.2% = net up 22.3% Common Core Math.

Funky numbers and faulty algorithms are costing Social Security recipients billions annually! We are being cheated in one of the largest Ponzi scams in history. And our esteemed Congress wants to raise the age of retirement for benefits while maintaining federal pensions: Under *FERS*, an employee who meets one of the following age and service requirements is entitled to an immediate retirement benefit: age 62 with five years of service, 60 with 20, minimum retirement age. The federal government does not just pay pensions for federal employees – it also pays for civilian employees – as in every single NGO.

Congress is asking for an 8.7% pay raise. Federal salaries have risen at double the pace of private employees since 2000. Their inflation/cost of living increases have been as much as 80% greater than Social Security – yet the age of retirement can be as low as 50 with partial benefits and 60 with full benefits. There is no discussion of aligning this with Social Security beneficiaries, or matching cost of living increases.

Not to mention ‘insider trading’ access.

It is illegal for a private person to act on insider knowledge – however, Congress is immune from this law. Any revisions to pay, pay increases, cost of living increases, trade restrictions is off the table. While these same people tell the peasants to tighten their buckle. And penalize the Martha Stewarts of the U.S. to set an example after she cashed in and made a whopping \$15,000 profit.

The first means for making insider trading legal is a quirk – “if the information is no material”. The second means is the very definition: “The Company’s officers, directors, certain employees, certain consultants and certain stockholders (and their family members) are considered *Insiders*.”

Despite politicians having access to full scale insider information, they are not considered insiders.

Nancy Pelosi entered politics in 1987. At the time her net worth was \$33.5 million. Today that net worth has ballooned to \$250 million – on insider trading. In 2018 when AOC entered politics, her net worth was \$-8,500. Today, her net worth is estimated to be between \$13 million and \$29 million.

[[Even conservative Senator Rand Paul has recently been exposed that his wife bought stock of one of the Covid vaccines based upon an insider stock tip! -Pastor Bob]]

On Insider Trading.

In 1995 the NET cost of Illegal immigrants was considered to be roughly \$12 billion. Today, housing alone for illegals is expected to reach \$450 billion. Other costs including incarceration, food stamps, education, medical care, etc... can add another \$200 - \$300 billion – annually.

Ukraine was just given \$300 million in “grant money”, better known as Monopoly Money, to buy American weapons. This is the same grant/aid exchange that the U.S. uses with Israel to launder funds. Aid funding is on the books at over \$200 billion for last year. Welfare now costs the Taxpayers \$1.1 trillion – 25% of the Budget.

Social Security isn’t broke – our irresponsible, negligent, corrupt government is -

**Christians Beware of Trump’s Two Faced Persona
He is Not Your Saviour**

Donald Trump Opposes Arizona Supreme Court Ruling Protecting Babies From Abortion

A week ago the MAGA candidate embraced the Log Cabin RINOs and now shows his hand on murder of the unborn! Think about how this will be perceived by the Creator when judgment is executed on the U.S.A.

If we've learned anything about the Globalist Cabal, it is that they fund and control both sides of everything. Is there any reason to believe that this case is any different when it comes to DJT? He is a British Crown Agent as Blessed Hope #320 confirms.

American Intelligence Media determined that, *"Like a Russian nested doll on steroids, 17-layers deep, Donald Trump's Truth Social was funded by the British Treasury via Coutts Bank— the bank of the British monarchy and Pilgrims Society."* Trump is not a Christian, he is a Satanist. Years ago pictures of his New York penthouse residence appeared on the Internet with all of its Satanic symbols in art and architecture.

Trump Secretly Mocks His Christian Supporters; The *'Atlantic'* had an article sharing former aides say that in private, the president has spoken with cynicism and contempt about believers by McKay Coppins.

One day in 2015, Donald Trump beckoned Michael Cohen, his longtime confidant and personal attorney, into his office. Trump was brandishing a printout of an article about an Atlanta-based megachurch pastor trying to raise \$60 million from his flock to buy a private jet. Trump knew the preacher personally—Creflo Dollar had been among a group of evangelical figures who visited him in 2011 while he was first exploring a presidential bid. During the meeting, Trump had reverently bowed his head in prayer while the pastors laid hands on him. Now he was gleefully reciting the impious details of Dollar's quest for a Gulfstream G650.

Trump seemed delighted by the *"scam,"* Cohen recalled to me, and eager to highlight that the pastor was *"full of shit."*

"They're all hustlers," Trump said.

The president's alliance with religious conservatives has long been premised on the contention that he takes them seriously, while Democrats hold them in disdain. In speeches and interviews, Trump routinely lavishes praise on conservative Christians, casting himself as their champion. *"My administration will never stop fighting for Americans of faith,"* he declared at a rally for evangelicals earlier this year. It's a message his campaign will seek to amplify in the coming weeks as Republicans work to confirm Amy Coney Barrett—a devout, conservative Catholic—to the Supreme Court."

That was then; now Trump hustles bobble head dolls at \$30 bucks a pop on Amazon and last of all we can't forget Trump is bringing together church and state in a gilded package for his latest venture, a \$60 "God Bless The USA" Bible complete with copies

of the nation's founding documents. With DJT it's all about the money that motivates this fake!

Trump announced the launch of the leather-bound, large-print, King James Bible in a post on Truth Social on Tuesday — a day after the social media company surged in its trading debut and two days after a New York appeals court extended his bond deadline to comply with a ruling in a civil fraud case and slashed the bond amount by 61%.

"Happy Holy Week! Let's Make America Pray Again," Trump wrote. "As we lead into Good Friday and Easter, I encourage you to get a copy of the God Bless The USA Bible." Folks, the hypocrisy of this man is over the top!



Former President Donald Trump today said he disagrees with the ruling yesterday by the Arizona Supreme Court to uphold a law that protect babies from abortion. <https://www.lifenews.com/2024/04/09/arizona-supreme-court-rules-state-can-enforce-abortion-ban-protect-babies-from-abortions/>

[As LifeNews reported](#), the Arizona Supreme Court ruled that the state can enforce its abortion ban and protect babies from abortions. The Arizona Supreme Court [ruled](#) Tuesday to uphold the state's pro-life law as written by overturning a lower court decision that misinterpreted the law.

"We conclude that [Arizona's law] does not create a right to, or otherwise provide independent statutory authority for, an abortion that repeals or restricts [the law], but rather is predicated entirely on the existence of a federal constitutional right

to an abortion since disclaimed by Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization,” the court wrote in its opinion in *Planned Parenthood Arizona v. Mayes*. ***“Absent the federal constitutional abortion right, and because [the law] does not independently authorize abortion, there is no provision in federal or state law prohibiting [the law’s] operation. Accordingly, [Arizona’s law] is now enforceable.”***

Asked if the state’s highest court “*went too far*” in the ruling, Trump replied: “*Yes they did. And that will be straightened out.*”

“*And, as you know, it’s all about state’s rights and it will be straightened out,*” Trump said. “*And I’m sure the governor and everybody else have got to bring it back into reason and that it will be taken care of I think.*”

His comments are ironic and confusing given that he said on Monday he supports state rights on abortion, yet now opposes a state’s highest court ruling that a state law protecting babies from abortions is valid.

After the Arizona Supreme Court upheld the state’s abortion ban yesterday, one of the big attacks against it is that the 1864 law supposedly doesn’t represent the will of the people and is antiquated.

But that contention is not true.

First, the judges on the Arizona Supreme Court represent the people. The seven justices on the state’s highest court are initially appointed by the governor to serve. They then stand for a retention vote for regular terms of six years and that is a ballot vote cast by Arizona voters. As a result, the justices represent the people via electing the governor and electing them directly.

Secondly, the law was affirmed twice after it was initially approved in 1864. [As CatholicVote notes in an article:](#)

The over century-and-a-half-old law is set to replace the state’s existing pro-life law which only protects most unborn children after 15 weeks gestation.

Republican then Gov. Doug Ducey [signed](#) the significantly weaker legislation into law in March 2022. Less than three months later, the U.S. Supreme Court decided *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

The Arizona Supreme Court held that the 2022 law “*is predicated entirely on the existence of a federal constitutional right to an abortion since disclaimed*” by the *Dobbs* decision.

Axios [reported](#) that “[a] provision of the 2022 law had affirmed it wasn’t repealing the 19th-century law.”

FOX News [noted](#) that the 1864 law “was codified in 1913 after Arizona became a state” and “includes an exception in cases where the mother’s life is at risk.”

Planned Parenthood was challenging the potential reinstatement of the state’s near-total abortion ban from 1864, which has exceptions for life-threatening emergencies, but had been blocked by 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. The Dobbs ruling should allow it to go into effect but the nation’s biggest abortion business challenged it.

The appellate court’s ruling misinterpreted state law, against its plain meaning, to allow abortion in circumstances where the Arizona Legislature prohibited it. It also enjoined officials from fully enforcing the state’s pro-life law to protect unborn children. The Arizona Supreme Court reversed this ruling, allowing the law to be enforced as written.

“Life is a human right, and today’s decision allows the state to respect that right and fully protect life again—just as the legislature intended,” said ADF Senior Counsel Jake Warner, who argued before the court. *“Life begins at conception. At just six weeks, unborn babies’ hearts begin to beat. At eight weeks, they have fingers and toes. And at 10 weeks, their unique fingerprints begin to form. Arizona’s pro-life law has protected unborn children for over 100 years, and the people of Arizona, through their elected representatives, have repeatedly affirmed that law, including as recently as 2022. We celebrate the Arizona Supreme Court’s decision that allows the state’s pro-life law to again protect the lives of countless, innocent unborn children.”*

In September 2022, the Arizona Superior Court in Pima County [appointed](#) Dr. Hazelrigg as the substitute guardian ad litem to legally represent the best interests of unborn children in Arizona, a role Arizona courts have recognized for over 50 years.

Leo Hohmann wrote: “By compromising on the issue of LIFE, Donald Trump and Kari Lake have now sealed the GOP’s doom as a viable conservative party; it may never recover.

After the Arizona Supreme Court ruled Tuesday in support of a state law requiring the near total ban on abortions, both former President and 2024 GOP frontrunner Donald Trump and senatorial candidate Kari Lake came out with strong comments in opposition to the court’s ruling.

This has stunned and confused many Republicans who are pro life.

Here is what Trump said in opposition to the court ruling.

State’s rights? I thought that was what we’ve seen in action was a state exercising its right to make laws, right?

Trump’s confusing comment came yesterday, April 10. Many of us are left wondering what happened to “let the states decide” and “federalism?” — a view of the abortion issue that Trump laid out in a [policy statement](#) just last week.

Today, April 11, Trump stated that if elected he would definitely [NOT sign a federal abortion ban](#) under any circumstances. So he's on the side of federalism when it supports his policy decisions but against it when a state Supreme Court upholds a state law he doesn't like.

Kari Lake, who ran for Arizona governor in 2022 and is now running for the U.S. Senate, came out equally strong against Arizona's abortion law.

Lake said she "oppose[s]" the Arizona Supreme Court's ruling in favor of the state's pro-life law, which she slammed as 'out of step with Arizonans,' and vowed not to support abortion bans if elected to the US Senate, as reported by [LifeSite News](#).

This is an issue on which you cannot compromise. Once you do, the pendulum will continuously swing further to the left. This is exactly what happened to the Democratic Party. It started out in support of abortion just in the first trimester of pregnancy, and look where they are today. They are the full throttle party of death. They support the right to kill one's baby right up to the moment of birth throughout all nine months of pregnancy, and are moving toward the right to kill the baby outside of the womb (some have already gone there).

So the GOP has placed itself on the same slippery slope.

What Trump and Lake and all of their supporters are really saying is this: A little baby killing is OK just don't get too "extreme."

Sorry, but that is a compromise of the worst kind. The GOP died today as a legitimate conservative option to the Democrats. It will not recover from this.

I know some of you will say that it died long ago, and you may be right. But this is a big step, a leap, toward clarifying what they really stand for. They are lurching toward the same evil position of their opponents, which means there is no longer any battle between good and evil in any election in which a Republican takes the position of Trump or Lake. Abortion is cool, just make sure it's not of the "extreme" variety.

At first, if you recall, the Democrats said babies in the womb were not actually living things, just tissue. They said abortion should be "safe, legal and rare." Now they celebrate their abortions and stumble over themselves trying to transport young women across state lines and into blue states where they can abort their babies before anyone can even ask them if that's what they really want to do.

Mark it down right now. Within a decade, if America is still around, the GOP will be on board with abortion up to birth. That's the track they've placed themselves on. They honestly believe that it's impossible to win elections now if you are not at least partially pro-abortion (whatever that means) and pro-LGBTQ. Both Trump and Lake also support the LGBTQ agenda, perhaps again not as radically as the Democrats, but they support it. Trump's wife, Melania, addressed the Log Cabin Republicans just this week, sending

a signal that her husband has moderated on that position too. Lake has made similar pilgrimages and outreaches to the gay community.

Maybe they're right. Maybe it has become impossible to win elections if you're not pro-abortion and pro-LGBTQ. But if that's the case, it only illustrates how far down the cultural rat hole America has gone, and when you get to a certain point, it's beyond saving."

HORRIFYING: 16 Times More Deaths Among COVID Vaccinated Population - Official Data

By Frank Bergman April 10, 2024

Official government data has highlighted the shocking disparity of deaths among people vaccinated with Covid mRNA shots when compared to the unvaxxed population.

The UK government's official data for deaths in England shows that almost 16.4 times as many vaccinated people have died compared to those who have never received a Covid injection.

The figures were published by the UK government's Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the agency's "Deaths by Vaccination Status" data set.

The data shows that, during a 23-month period after the Covid shots were rolled out to the public, almost one million vaccinated people died.

However, during the same period, just 61,000 unvaccinated people died.

That equates to 16.39 times as many deaths of vaccinated people.

Vaccine advocates could argue that more people are vaccinated for Covid than unvaxxed, which would account for the difference,

However, in England, approximately 30 percent of the population is unvaccinated.

This means just 2.3 times as many people are vaccinated as unvaccinated.

According to the U.K. Health Security Agency (UKHSA), by July 2022, 18.9 million people had refused the first dose of the COVID-19 injection.

Meanwhile, 21.5 million people refused the second dose of the COVID-19 injection.

Additionally, 2.6 million people had received the first dose but refused the second.

30.4 million people refused the third dose of the COVID-19 injection, while 8.9 million people who had received the second dose, refused the third.

According to the UKHSA's figures, 63.4 million people were eligible for vaccination at that point.

Therefore, as of July 2022, 30 percent of England's population remained completely unvaccinated.

34 percent was not double vaccinated and 50 percent was not triple vaccinated.

However, the vaccinated population as a whole accounted for 95 percent of all COVID-19 deaths between January and May 2023.

The unvaccinated population, meanwhile, accounted for just five percent.

However, it's the fact that these deaths aren't among the one-dose and two-dose vaccinated population that is truly alarming.

The vast majority are among those vaccinated four times.

The quad-vaxxed population accounts for 80 percent of all COVID-19 deaths, and 83 percent of all COVID-19 deaths among the vaccinated.

The following figures can be found published on the ONS website:

Between July and September 2021, the highest number of unvaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 70 to 79-year-olds in August with 676 deaths. Whereas, the highest number of vaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in September 2021 with a shocking 13,294 deaths.

Between October and December 2021, the highest number of unvaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in December with 776 deaths. In contrast, the highest number of vaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in December 2021 with a shocking 16,171 deaths.

Between January and March 2022, the highest number of unvaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 70 to 79-year-olds in January with 776 deaths. In comparison, the highest number of vaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in January 2022 with a shocking 15,948 deaths.

Between April and June 2022, the highest number of unvaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in April with 500 deaths. At the same time, the highest number of vaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in April 2022 with a shocking 14,902 deaths.

Between July and September 2022, the highest number of unvaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in July with 493 deaths. In comparison, the highest number of vaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in July 2022 with a shocking 14,286 deaths.

Between October and December 2022, the highest number of unvaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in December with 604 deaths. In contrast, the highest number of vaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in December 2022 with a shocking 19,914 deaths.

Between January and March 2023, the highest number of unvaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in January 2023 with 551 deaths. The highest number of vaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among the 80 to 89-year-olds in January 2023 with a shocking 18,297 deaths.

Between April and May 2023, the highest number of unvaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 70 to 79-year-olds in May with 405 deaths. At the same time, the highest number of vaccinated all-cause deaths occurred among 80 to 89-year-olds in April with a shocking 13,713 deaths.

What's extremely concerning about these official figures is that the vaccinated surpass the unvaccinated by far in terms of death in every single age group since July 2021, even though 30 percent of the population have not even had a COVID-19 injection.

So much so, that there were 965,609 deaths among the vaccinated compared to just 60,903 deaths among the unvaccinated between July 2021 and May 2023.

This means there was a total of 1,026,512 deaths in England during this period and the vaccinated accounted for 94 percent of them.

The unvaccinated accounted for just six percent.

This disturbing data raises serious concerns about the safety of the Covid mRNA injections.

The fact that so many vaxxed people are dying surely warrants a full investigation.

The "Deaths by Vaccination Status" dataset can be found on the ONS website here or downloaded here.

Source: slaynews.com

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner

...the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.
(Revelation 19:7b)



At the Rapture, all Church Age Believers are taken to heaven where we'll join the Old Testament Saints whom Jesus redeemed at the cross. Got any questions for Adam? Get in line.

During this 7-year period with the Tribulation going on below on the earth, the Church Age Believers will be meticulously judged for their works. God knows our thoughts so He knows WHY we did something, not just that we did something.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed [rewarded] for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (2nd Corinthians 5:10).

The first thing you need to know is that the word “*judgment seat*” (Greek word “*Bema*”) is actually “*judgment step*.” The “*bema*” is not a place of judgment for right or wrong crimes. Those took place in a different location.

The “*Bema*” is a step in front of the rostrum where athletes came to bow down and show their allegiance to the Roman Emperor (or local Roman official) and receive their reward, a perishable wreath.

“Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.” (1st Corinthians 9:25)

So the Judgment Seat of Christ is not about judgment for salvation because Jesus paid for all our sins at the cross.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, [for salvation] but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24)

Rather, the bema is first about our allegiance to Christ...those who are indwelt by God's Holy Spirit. Then it's a judgment for rewards for what we allowed Jesus to do through us.

Since our sin is a continual action (Romans 3:23, Greek = "keep on sinning") and our works are like **"filthy rags"** to the Lord (Isaiah 64:6—**"menstrual rags"**), the only thing that counts for rewards are for things we allow the Lord to use us for. We can't, He can.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13)

We have to allow God to drive, not as a copilot, as the only pilot. He is not a crutch, He is the whole gurney. So our judgment for good works is about how often we allowed God to use us, to take control. This judgment even has a litmus test for purity.

"For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." (1st Corinthians 3:11-15)

It goes without saying, that verse confirms God knows when you do something right for the wrong reasons. Also, notice a Believer can get all his doctrine wrong after salvation and still be saved. We'll all get our doctrine corrected

We don't know too much about the specific rewards Believers receive. The only ones mentioned are the five crown rewards that symbolize triumph.

1) The Imperishable Crown—given to Believers who gain mastery over the flesh.

"...exercises self-control in all things." (1st Corinthians 9:25)

2) The Crown of Rejoicing

This is given to those who love to evangelize. (1st Thessalonians. 2:19, Luke 15:10, 2nd Timothy 4:5)

"he who is wise wins souls." (Proverbs 11:30)

3) The Crown Of Life

This is given to Believers who persevere under great trials. (Revelation 2:10)

"Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial;" (James 1:12a)

4) The Crown Of Glory

This is given to Believers who faithfully shepherd God's people.

“shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.” (1st Peter 5:2,3)

5) The Crown Of Righteousness

This is given to those watching and longing for the Rapture.

“...to all who have loved His appearing.” (2nd Timothy 4:8)

I know a lot of people reading this who will at least receive crown #5!

At the end of the 7-year Tribulation, Church Age Believers return to earth with Jesus as the Bride of Christ where we'll reign with Jesus for 1000 years.

“reigned with Him for a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:6)

When we return to the earth with Jesus for His Second Coming, we know our Christian judgment has been completed because what we're wearing is based on Jesus' examination of our allegiance and allowing Him to use us.

“... the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” (Revelation 19:7b-8)

This brings up an interesting theological point: Believers are to be constantly yielding to Jesus using us so we don't lose any awards we have gained!

“...hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.” Revelation. 3:11b

“Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.” (2nd John 8)

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.” (1st Corinthians 9:24-27)

It's important to note that any crowns we receive we don't wear for eternity. Instead, we'll have the privilege of placing them at the feet of Jesus.

“the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne,” (Revelation 4:10)

As far as what we'll look like under those white robes, we'll have new bodies like Jesus received at His resurrection.

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory,” (Phil. 3:20-21a)

I have a friend who died for several minutes and then came back to life. He said while he was out of his body, what was odd was that he was in a room full of absolutely beautiful people who all looked to be in their early twenties. He concluded that if someone dies in their 90s, they won't have to look like a wrinkled raisin for eternity. Whew!

But our new bodies will still be human-shaped. Just like the resurrected body Jesus has, we'll also have arms, legs, head, eyes, nose, etc.

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory,” (Phil. 3:21a)

The Old Testament Saints, which include both pre-Abraham Believers like Adam, Eve and Enoch, and post-Abraham to the cross Believers like Moses and David, are distinct and dispensationally different from the Church Age Saints like Paul and Silas.

These Old Testament Saints also return to the earth with Jesus. We know this because they're invited as special guests at the Believers' big wedding day celebration.

“...blessed are those who have been invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb...” (Rev. 19:9b)

All this is more easily understood by looking at how a Jewish wedding transpires.

1). The groom initiates the covenant with a payment for the bride

In ancient days, marriage was not an agreement between two individuals, but between two families.

It was customary for the Jewish father of the bride to receive a dowry for his daughter from the groom's family.

That's what Christ did for us, He initiated the relationship and called us to Himself. The payment for the bride was what Jesus accomplished for us on Calvary 2000 years ago.

“For you have been bought with a price.” (1st Corinthians 6:20)

And He gave us the Holy Spirit as a non-refundable deposit.

“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.” (2nd Corinthians. 1:21-22)

2) The Bride Is Set Apart

She is exclusively set aside for the husband. That's currently where Believers are... set apart.

“But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for Himself;” (Psalm 4:3a)

Believers are like a woman who is spoken for—we have been positionally set aside for God.

3) The Groom Separates From The Bride

He returns to his father's house to prepare the bridal chamber.

This is what Jesus has been doing for the last 2000 years, preparing the bridal chamber.

“In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)

4) The Loyalty Test

During this time of separation, until Jesus returns, we're to be loyal to Him. This is the basis of our rewards ... use us, Lord!

“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (James 4:4)

5) The Bride is Retrieved

The groom returns at an unknown time preceded by a shout with escorts to retrieve the bride.

For Believers, this is the Rapture that includes a loud shout.

“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. 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.”
(1stThessalonians 4 15-17)

“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:3)

6) The Bride and the Groom are Hidden in the Father’s House for Seven Days

This lines up with the church being in heaven, the Father’s house, during the 7-year Tribulation.

7) The Bride Is Cleansed

The bride undergoes a ritual cleansing prior to the wedding. This lines up with the Bema Seat/Judgment of Christ where Christians are either rewarded or not rewarded based on how they did during the loyalty separation time.

“...Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.” (Ephesians 5:25b-27)

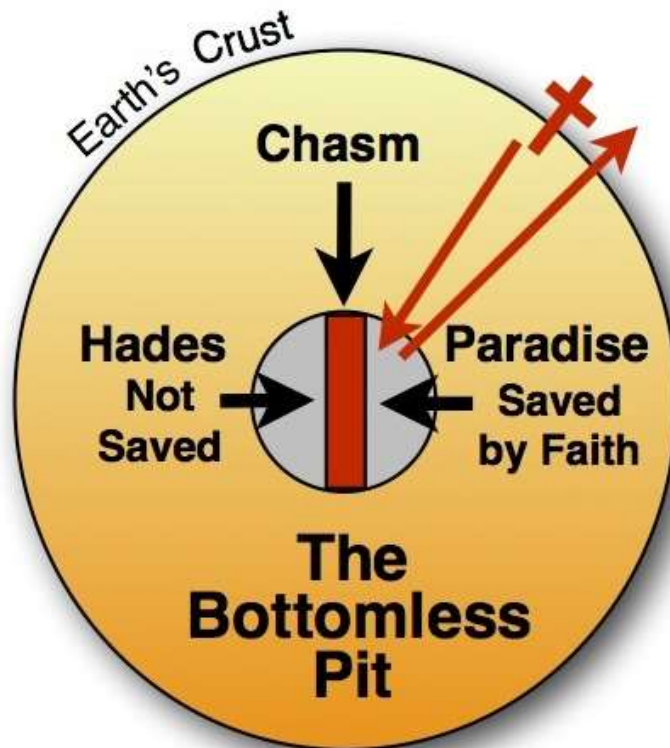
8) The Wedding Ceremony

There’s a meeting with the Father’s assembled wedding guests, a private wedding ceremony in the Father’s house.

The deceased Old Testament Believers initially could not go to heaven until the Messiah came and paid for their sin.

“So until the Messiah died as a qualified blood sacrifice, the “saved by faith” who died prior to the cross went to a place called Paradise.” (See Luke 16:19-31 ... and note that Jesus is not speaking in a parable but rather telling a true story.)

When Jesus paid the price of redemption, the first thing He did was go retrieve the Old Testament Believers from the center of the earth.(1)



“(Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)” **Ephesians 4:9-10**

The “lower parts of the earth” was also called the “bottomless pit,” because every direction was up. (Revelations 9:1-2).

Paul also was caught up to “Paradise,” but when he went up, it was post-cross and is now located in heaven.

“was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.” (2nd Corinthians 12:4)

Therefore, Paradise is now located in heaven. And the pre-cross Believers (Adam through the thief on the cross) will be coming to the Wedding of the Lamb as invited guests.

“Then he said to me, ‘Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” Revelation 19:9)

So the Believers in the Church Age are married to Christ and those Old Testament Believers are “blessed” to be “invited” guests.

I suspect those who die as martyrs in the Tribulation will also be invited. But the Bride of Christ is ONLY for the Church Age Believers.

9) The Consummation of the Marriage

The Bride and Groom consummate the marriage. This lines up for Believers as being presented to the groom spotless.

“That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.” - (Ephesians 5:27)

10) The Marriage Feast

The new husband and wife are revealed. For Believers this is when the formal announcement is made.

“For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” (Colossians 3:3-4)



Marriage Supper of the Lamb

After the marriage comes the celebration. Think Jesus turning the water into wine in Cana.

We know this big dinner celebrating the marriage between Christ and the Church takes place on earth for a couple of reasons.

First, we just saw in these verses Jesus returning to earth for His Second Coming.

Second, we have a wedding parable about someone showing up with the wrong clothes on.

“But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes,” (Matthew 22:11)

There would be no one in heaven, which is a perfect and sinless place (Isaiah 6), who could have on the wrong clothes.

So we're in store for a really big dinner at the conclusion of the Marriage of the Lamb. We're not guests, we're the Bride of Christ. Jesus referred to this at the last supper the night before He was crucified:

“But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.” (Matthew 26:29)

Jesus drank fermented wine while He was on the earth. He even turned water into wine at a wedding. And He will drink wine again in the future, beginning with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

That will be some party and I can hardly wait to taste His wine.

Use us, Lord! -Bill Perkins

Blessings,

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The **A B C**'s of Salvation

A Admit that you sin.



Your sin separates you from God and keeps you from Heaven. Every sin must be punished. Your punishment for sin is Hell.

Romans 3:10 • Revelation 21:8

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23a

B Believe in Jesus.



Jesus Christ, God's own Son, came to die for your sins. His death on the cross can replace your death in Hell. He only asks that you believe Him.

John 3:16 • 2 Corinthians 5:21 • Isaiah 53:5-6

...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23b

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

Romans 5:8

C Choose to allow Jesus to save you.



God is waiting for you to receive His gift of salvation. If you ask Him, God will remove your sin and give you a home in Heaven!

John 14:1-2 • Titus 3:5-7 • John 1:12

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:10

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:13