**The Door is Closed, and the Books are Opened**

An Excerpt from Gods’ Time Capsule

As we reach the culmination of these three groups and see how each one is brought to its conclusion a couple of things become apparent.
The first is that those who choose to focus their lives on the hereafter rather than the here and now seem to have a clearer understanding and a better eternal outcome shown to them in the scriptures.
The second thing we see is that no one is exempt from standing before the great judge and king to give account for the life lived here on the earth. Indeed, it seems to be what is best explained as, administered on a sliding scale but indeed no one will escape His judgement. By the term sliding scale I am referring to the scripture that says to whom much is given much is required which seems to indicate that to whom little was given less would be required. It is also referenced in the parable of the talents where one is given 10 another 5 and another only one. It was expected of those who received them to put them to good use. Those with 5 were not expected to produce as much as those with 10. Yet all were expected to use what God had given them for the benefit of the kingdom. The goals that were expected to be achieved were determined by the giver of the talents and not by what we would classify as success. This leads us to the greatest question of all. How can we determine what the giver of the talents is expecting from us? And the answer lies in communication and relationship. The place to start is clearly in His word. It gives us clear direction as to where we should put our time and attention. It also provides us with indicators of our progress. These signs that are given indicate that you are showing forth evidence of Christ operating in your life. Jesus told us that you would know the true followers by their fruit. I believe the reference here is to the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in the 5th chapter of the book of Galatians. It is Love, Joy, peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. Let’s not miss the fact that these are fruits, and they are not gifts. Gifts are given freely and are unmerited while fruits, on the other hand take time and nurturing to grow and manifest. Those that are truly following Christ will manifest these fruits in their lives. Jesus clearly stated that my sheep hear my voice and the voice of another they will not follow. He also stated that not everyone that calls themselves followers of Christ will enter into the kingdom but those who hear and obey the voice of the father. That presupposes that His voice can be heard and obeyed.
The group that is held most accountable for this type of life is the church. And those that teach in the church are held to an even higher standard.
It is fairly clear that over the last 2000 years of church history we have not been accentuating this area of spiritual growth. As we will see ALL will stand before Him and the books will be opened. The opening of the books means that every idle word, deed, and intent of the heart are recorded, and we will be held accountable for each one. The most important part of this accounting is the intent of the heart in all we do. It is pretty clear that some will do good deeds for selfish reasons and all these deeds will be burned up and deemed worthless while the smallest of other acts done with a pure heart and right motives will be greatly rewarded. Just as stated by those that said to the Lord when did we feed you or come to visit you in prison? And Jesus said when you did it to the least of these you did it for me.
As we take stock of our own lives it would benefit us greatly to consider our motives in all we do as everyone will stand before Him with the books opened.
To those that believed not in God they will be held accountable for the very witness of creation in all its majesty, and as stated in the book of Romans it is declared in no uncertain terms that creation has shown it to them, and they are without excuse. To the Jewish believer who has the law and the prophets to follow they will be held responsible for following and heeding their words and their prophecies. To the church of Jesus who have been given the very Spirit of God dwelling within them, teaching and guiding them they will be responsible for making use of that inward witness and relationship. To those in the church Paul mentions the judgment seat of Christ which according to his letter To the Corinthians, is not a determination of entrance into the kingdom, but a granting of rewards or lack of rewards. The danger here is for those that think they are part of this group but are doing it for themselves and are deceived into thinking that they are following Christ. Jesus himself said that MANY in that day will come to him and say Lord, Lord have we not prophesied and cast out demons in your name? A clear reference to ministers and ministries that profess Jesus as their Lord. And his response was I never knew you! To those that are part of this group called the church this should give us all pause. The clear indication of this scripture is that in order to be part of this group you MUST know him. Just as you get to know someone here in the natural, so is it with Christ. We have to spend time, talk, listen, and get to know the character of him. If that seems strange to you then it would seem that a-lot of your focus is on this natural life, and you haven’t yet spent sufficient time cultivating how to listen and follow the Holy Spirit on the inside that was given to lead and guide us in all truth. Let’s also note that MANY in that day would come and say they thought they were following Jesus but were not. He clearly mentions that this is not a few misguided people but MANY.
The reality here is that religion is NOT relationship with Jesus. Going to church and doing good works in his name does not mean that you are in relationship with him. This indeed is a hard lesson for many people, as Jesus mentioned in the parable of the sowing of the seed that one type of seed was the one choked by the cares of this life and the desire for other things. For too many Christians this is a hard pill to swallow as it means that all the things that you have spent your life acquiring could actually be a deterrent to your relationship with Christ which according to Jesus is the primary goal.
So, we can see what is meant by the books shall be opened but what was meant when Jesus said that the door shall be closed? It is mentioned in Matthew chapter 25 in the parable of the ten virgins. These 10 were expected to be prepared and waiting for the bridegrooms return, which could happen at any time, meaning they needed to always be ready. It shows that when Jesus returns that those that are ready were granted entrance but those that were not prepared had the door closed on them and upon their request to have the door opened Jesus once again states that I never knew you. So apparently, they knew who he was, but a relationship was never established, and He did not know who they were. I take this to indicate that when Christ comes for his church those that truly know him will be removed from the coming 7 years of judgement and calamity soon to come upon the earth, while those that did not would be left to endure it. The church of Philadelphia mentioned in the 3rd chapter of the book of Revelation is told that Jesus opens doors that no one shuts and shuts doors that no one opens. These believers are told that Jesus will keep them from the hour or time of trial that is coming upon the entire earth.
As we read all these passages one can clearly see that God is making every effort to make us aware and to give us ample warning and prepare us for what is about to take place here on earth.
So true preparation in my opinion is getting your heart right and your relationship with Jesus established and in its proper place.