

## 09-I Facing Revelation's Judgment

(Appeal Song: I'd Rather Have Jesus)

- Topic: "Facing Revelation's Judgment"

- **Adolf Hitler** –the name still horrifies us today
  - 10 years–his name–on lips of most of world
  - brings to mind–worst creature–world's history

- More than **6 million European Jews**
  - like these from the Lublin Province in Poland
  - rounded up–shipped off to concentration camps

- **Auschwitz** –one of the most notorious
  - "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work Makes One Free)
  - greeted the condemned on their arrival

- What awaited them was...
  - slave labor** intended to lead to their deaths
  - like these in Buchenwald
  - when liberated in April, 1945.



- The vast majority
  - **rapidly put to death** – arriving at the camps
  - these in Nordhausen – had not been buried
  - when camps were “liberated”



- Most were **gassed then cremated**
  - in chambers like this one – Mathausen
  - their ashes and bones scattered
  - across nearby fields



- When world – understood
  - **magnitude – crimes** – committed
  - demanded perpetrators – brought to justice ==>
  - War-crimes trial – convened – Nuremberg, Germany



- 22 leading Nazi officials
  - brought to trial
  - **Hitler** himself **escaped – committing suicide**



- The court itself was led by...
  - British Judge Lawrence and
  - American Justice – Francis Biddle



- Most **defendants – put to death**
  - **punishment – so little** – compared to crime
  - millions put to death – for racial purity!

- Now – Lift your eyes from earth
  - to trial of the ages
  - from – earthly courtroom – heavenly one
  - Earth’s Day of Judgment has Come! ==>



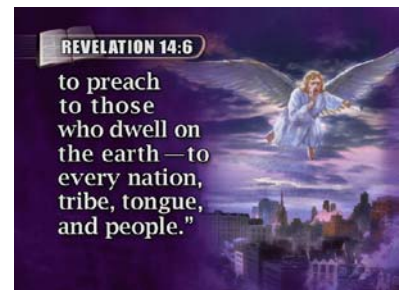
- This message of judgment...
  - God’s last warning message to this world
  - Message given by John—in Revelation



- Revelation 14:6 says **=====➔**  
**“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel...”**



**“...to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue and people...”**



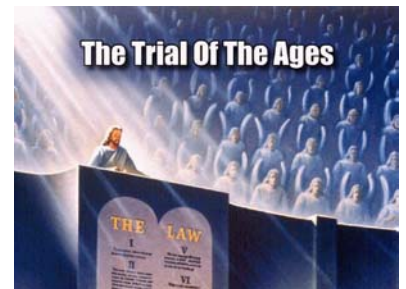
**“...Saying with a loud voice ‘Fear God give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come...’”**

(Revelation 14:6, 7)



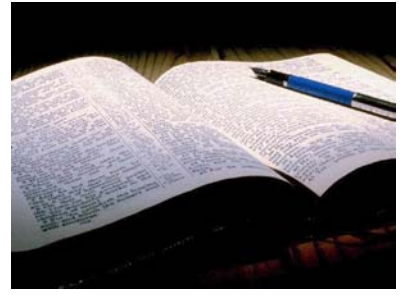
- Bible says—this message is for...
  - every nation—tribe—language group—people
  - Hour—God’s judgment has come
  - This is—no earthly court
  - This is no trial of the century—Heaven’s court sits

- This is—The trial of the ages
  - Final drama—in history of the world
  - Great controversy—good and evil
    - finally—fully—completely settled
  - Destinies—all mankind are settled



- Daniel saw—courtroom scene—Daniel 7:13

***“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.”***



***“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.” Daniel 7:13 NKJV***

- Can you imagine that scene?
  - Daniel looks up into heaven.
  - Sees—supreme court of the universe
  - 10,000 times 10,000 beings
  - Cherubim—Seraphim—angels—in heaven’s court



- He sees—ancient of days—God the Father seated
  - He sees—Son of Man
  - Father and Son sit—supreme court of the universe convenes

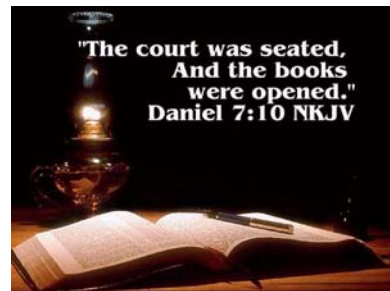
***“I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool...”***

***“I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool.”***

***“His throne was a fiery flame, ...a thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him...”***

***His throne was a fiery flame, ...A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.” Daniel 7:9, 10 NKJV***

**“...The court was seated, And the books were opened.”** (Daniel 7:9,10)



● This is—magnificent—majestic—glorious scene  
—sitting—supreme court of the universe

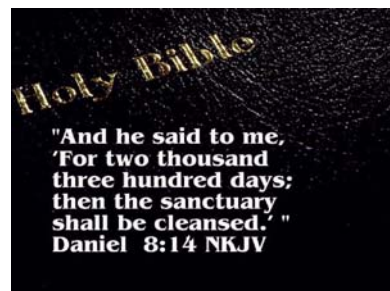


● Bible says—books were opened  
—evidence is presented—Why?

● What occurs in this judgment  
—How is—drama of destinies settled  
—as the sun sets—planet called earth====>



● You will recall—studied timing—this judgment  
—timing—cleansing—heaven’s sanctuary



● We read—Daniel 8:14====>  
**“And He said to me, ‘For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’”**

● In Bible—one prophetic day = one literal year  
—2300 prophetic days—from Daniel’s time  
—represented—2300 years



● Bible talks about—cleansing of the sanctuary ==>  
—two sanctuaries—one on earth—a scale modeled  
—copy—pattern—great original sanctuary in heaven



- 2300 years—in future—from Daniel’s day
  - obviously—no sanctuary on earth
  - when Jesus died—veil in earthly temple split
  - no longer—sacrifices of lambs—brought to—temple

- Everything in—earthly temple
  - represented ministry—in heaven
  - lambs slain—earthly temple
  - so Jesus—Lamb of God—came—heaven—die for us



- After death—lamb—earthly sanctuary
  - priest took blood—into sanctuary
  - after Christ’s death—He—lamb of God—ascended—heavenly sanctuary

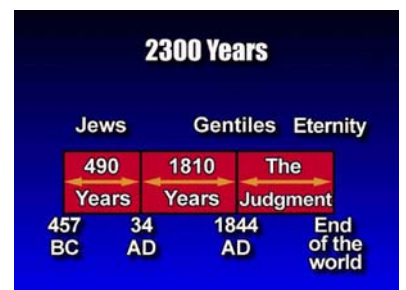
- At end—Jewish religious cycle—earthly sanctuary
  - day of atonement—day of judgment
  - end of time—also be—day of judgment



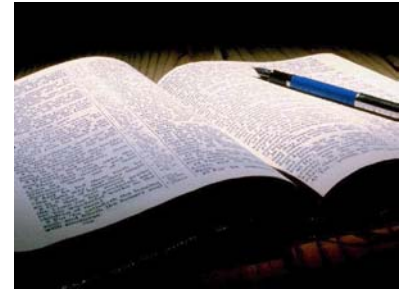
- According to Daniel’s prophecy...
  - 2300 years—Daniel’s time
  - take world—to the heavenly judgment
  - just before—second coming of Christ



- The 2300 years
  - began—457 BC—decree—rebuild Jerusalem
  - first 490 years—applied to the Jews
  - ended—completed—31 AD—Jews crucified Christ
  - later—34 AD—stoned Stephen—gospel to gentiles
  - 2300 years—from 457 BC—to 1844



- Since 1844—living in—time of the end
  - a period—Bible calls—God’s judgment hour
  - when heaven’s court—in session
  - when destinies—human race—to be settled



- Acts 17:31 says—God...
  - “...has appointed a day on which he will judge the world.”



- We have entered—that judgment hour
  - destiny—this world—now being decided



- What is—the reason for this judgment?
  - Why is there—judgment before Christ comes?
  - Doesn’t God know—who—saved and lost?
  - Part of—the controversy between good and evil



- Recall—Bible says—God created—Lucifer
  - being of dazzling brightness
  - he rebelled against God
  - led—universe into disobedience



- Let’s read about his fall in—Isaiah 14:12-14
  - “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!...”

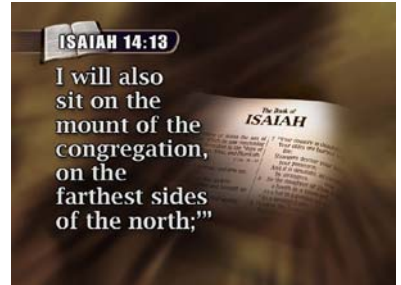


**“...For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;...”**



●He says...

**“I will also sit in the mount of the congregation On the farthest side of the north:...”**



- From the north—where God’s law was given
- Satan wanted be—a law-giver

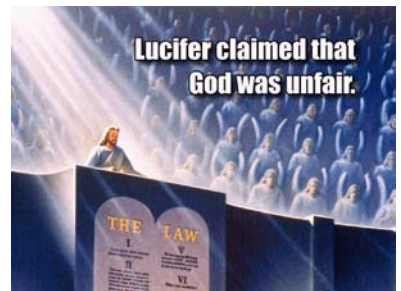
**“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.”**



- Lucifer wanted to sit on God’s throne
  - He rejected God’s authority
  - He wanted to be his own ruler
  - To set opinions above God’s sovereignty



- Lucifer claimed that God was unfair.
  - Lucifer led—a third—angels into rebellion



- Lucifer—came to planet earth
  - led Adam and Eve—same sin
  - rejecting God’s love & authority

- Before universe—Lucifer has charged—God is unfair
  - God’s not righteous—God’s way--not the best—God’s laws can’t be kept
  - So God is on trial before his own universe.



● **The heavenly records reveal God's justice.** ==>

- Before God wipes sin out of the universe
- His love–fairness–justice–shown to universe



● Universe will see–

- God loves–so much
- done everything possible–save every human
- You and I are **evidence in the trial.**

● As our lives–come before God–in judgment

–God asks–could I have **done anything more to save..**

- Bob–Maria–Antonio–Rose–or Ulrich
- It will be evident–anybody–who is lost–NOT
- because God didn't give them a chance–opportunity
  - because God didn't love them
  - because God didn't desire their happiness
- They were **lost–because of their choice**
  - chose–reject God's love–justice–sovereignty–authority
  - They wanted to be their own Gods



● God created the human race

- not as cosmic specs of dust
- but as individuals

● God created every one–**capacity to choose** ==>

- to make rational–moral choices



● Bible says–judgment calls us–account–how we've used that power

- Whether you're saved or lost–its in your hands–It's your choice.



- Nothing secret with God
  - double lives–double standards
  - exposed–before–search light–a Holy God



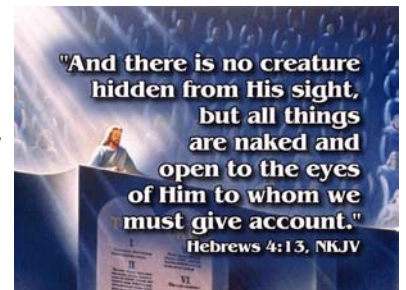
- Sir, you may hide something from your wife
  - But it can't be hidden from God
- You may hide something from your husband, ma'am
  - But it can't be hidden from God.



- Bible says–judgement will break into–every secret thing
  - In your private moments–what are you reading–watching?
  - In your innermost soul–what do you really love?

- Bible says–Hebrews 4:13

***“And there is no creature hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”***



- In the judgement–no pretense–no sham
- You may look decent–on outside
  - appear moral–fancy suit–brief case
  - if you–doing dishonest business deals, remember
  - “...all things are naked and open to” God.

- We appear before–judgment of God →
  - not as we pretend to be–but as we actually are
  - not with facade–dressed in truth–for all to see

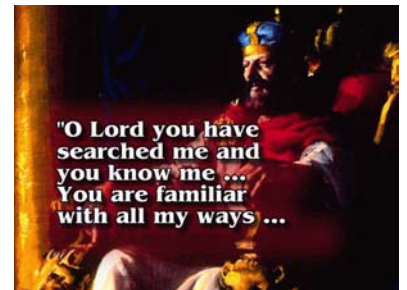


●Once—in a packed theater—movie stopped—lights came on—announcement made—“If somebody—here with another man’s wife—better leave quickly—her husband just ran in front door with a gun to shoot you.” 17 couples got up and ran out the door!

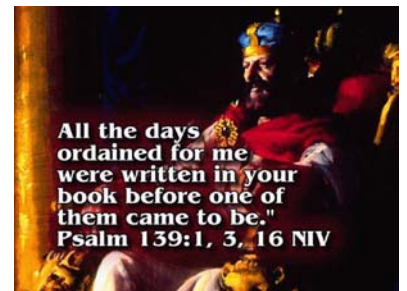


●Psalms 139: 1, 3, 16 says

**“O Lord, You have searched me and you know me... You are familiar with all my ways...”**



**“All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”**



●Bible says, you’ve searched me, O, God.

- How will you stand in the judgment?
- Is there greed—lust—selfishness—in your heart?
- How will you stand before God?



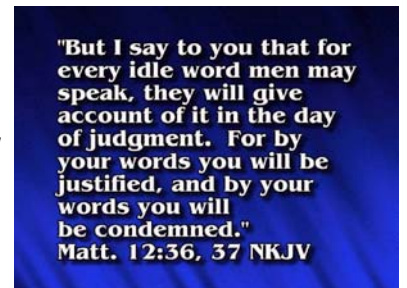
●You say, Pastor

- I can’t make it in that judgment.
- God knows everything—thoughts—words—deeds



●Matthew 12:36, 37 says,

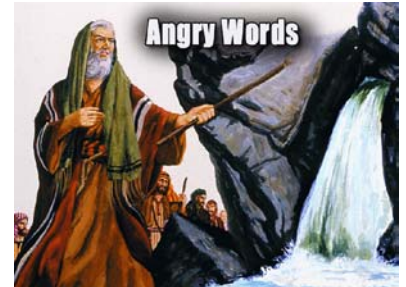
**“But I say to you that for every idle word man may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”**



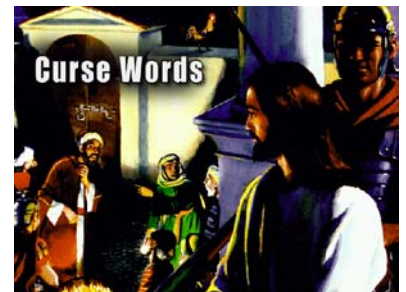
- Bible says—**our words**—are brought into judgment!  
 –In the Bible—words are **VERY important**



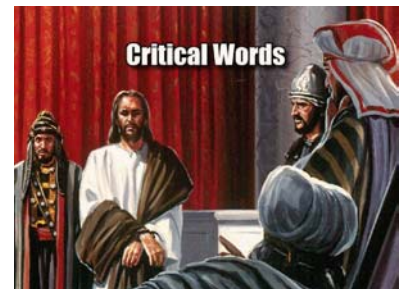
- Moses spoke **angry words**
  - He became angry—smote rock—with angry words
  - couldn't enter promised land with Israel
  - God forgave him—angry words cost him dearly



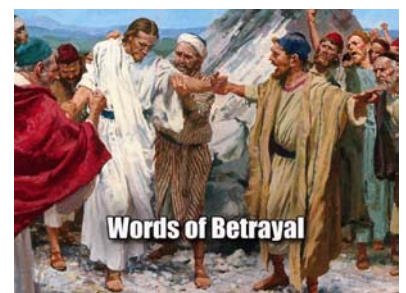
- Peter denied his Lord—with **curse words**
  - just when Jesus needed him



- Pilate lost his soul—refused to act on the evidence
  - his **critical words**, and
  - washing his hands of the Messiah
  - condemned him to death



- What about Judas's tragic **words of betrayal**.

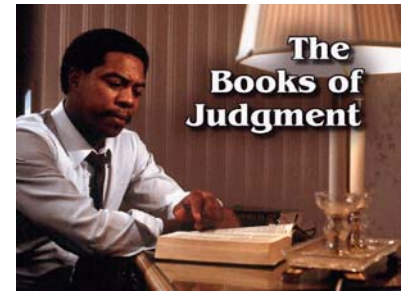


- The judgment reveals our..
  - thoughts—actions—words.

- How can you and I—pass the judgment?
  - How can we—have hope in the judgment?
- If you and I—have to stand before God...
  - no way** that we can pass—we'll **all be lost**
  - there must be another alternative



- What is—encouraging message of—judgment hour?
- Bible helps—when it describes—  
—**The books of judgment**



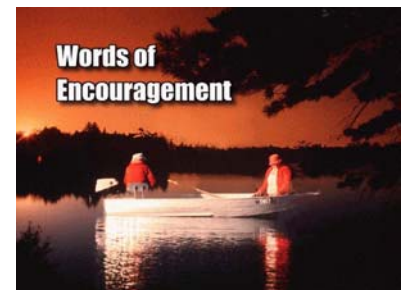
- Malachi 3:16 says  
“**Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them;...**”



- “**...So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on his name.**”



- The **good news** of the judgment...
  - everything is recorded—not only—bad deeds
  - also—kind, loving words are recorded
  - positive choices are recorded

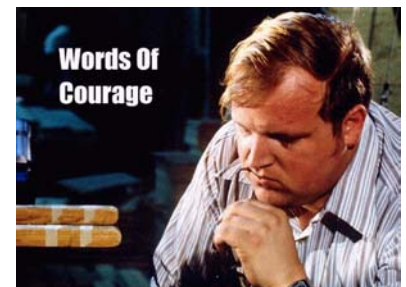


- So are **words of encouragement** →
- spoken to other people



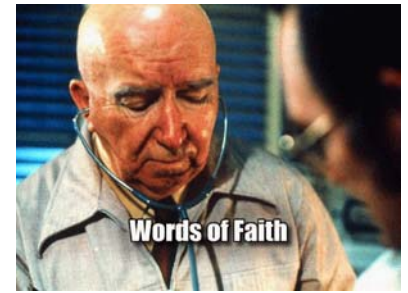
- There are **words of hope** →

- **Words of courage.**
  - all recorded in God’s record
  - that unselfish act—kind act—all recorded



- Those **words of faith**

- Praying with someone
- Leading somebody to know Jesus
- all recorded–heaven’s books



- In addition–for judgment to be fair

- must not only record–good deeds–bad deeds
- also–something about–**background–environment–difficulties**
- something about – **“tears of our life”**

- Bible says–Psalm 56:8

***“Record my lament: (or my sorrow). List my tears on your scroll - Are they not in your record.”***



- Every tear–ever shed–due to–a **failed marriage**





- Every tear–ever shed–over your **children**

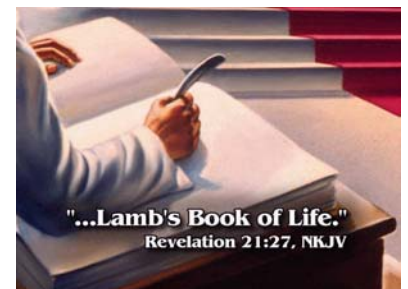


- Every sorrow–experienced

- loneliness–discouragement–depression **====>**
- it’s all there recorded



- God knows—difficult circumstances—your life.
  - God knows—your poverty—sorrow—tears
- What I **really am**—battles—struggles—joys—sorrows—good and bad deeds
  - strip aside the facade—take away—person everybody sees
  - leave only—what I really am—authentic me—genuine me
  - That **comes up before God's throne**
- You ask—**how can I pass** that judgment?
  - Is it good deeds—weighed against bad deeds?
  - Nothing—further from the truth
- Let's look—God's **books of record**—one book in particular
  - Sure—good deeds—bad deeds—are recorded
  - these reflect who we are—reflect our decisions—our choices
- Here—**most important book**—mentioned—in all of the Bible
  - a book—if your name is written in it—stays in it—you'll be saved forever
  - if your name—not in it—you'll be lost forever
- The Bible calls it—Revelation 21:27 
  - **"...the lamb's book of life."**
- This is—Jesus' book—those who will live forever.
- According to Bible—**only two classes** 
  - saved and the lost.
- Today—some—totally for Christ
  - others—totally against Christ
  - **great middle class**—undecided

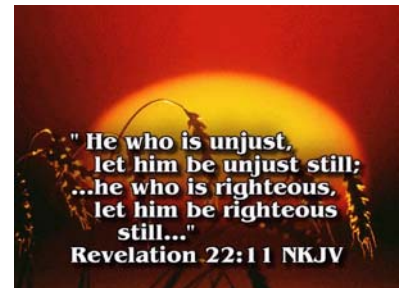




- According to Revelation
  - middle class–going one way or the other–For Christ–or–against Christ
- Bible says–will be–final harvest

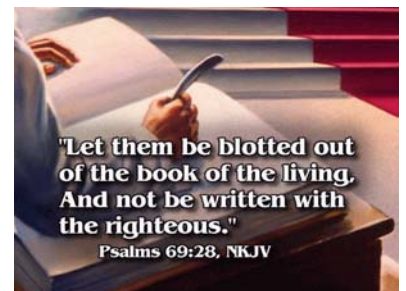


- Final harvest–described–Revelation 22:11
  - “He who is unjust let him be unjust still;... he who is righteous, let him be righteous still...”



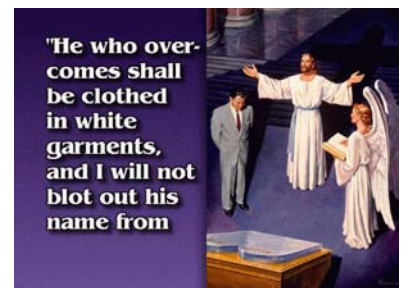
- Two classes
  - just and unjust–righteous and unrighteous
- Large middle class–not yet decided–now making decision
  - for or against Christ–follow Jesus–or–the beast–last days
  - no other alternative–surrender to Christ–surrender to the beast
  - allegiance to God–allegiance to the beast

- Psalm 69:28 says...
  - “Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous.”

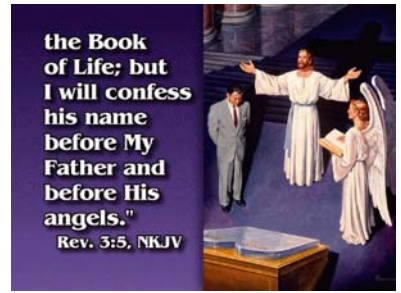


- Those–refuse–claims of Jesus–who reject Christ
  - Bible says–will be blotted out–book of the living

- But Revelation 3:5 adds... →
  - “He who overcomes (those who accept Christ as their redeemer) shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from...”



**“...the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before his angels.”**



- Either—I appear before God
  - lust—pride—greed—showing my sins
  - I’m blotted out—God’s book—forever and lost
- Or—I appear—record of my life is there—Jesus steps forward
  - this is one of mine—Yes, he failed—he sinned
  - But, Father, my blood was shed to pardon his sin.
  - By faith he was “in me” when I died on the cross.
- Pardon—written after every sin
  - My sins do not appear—before God—before heavenly beings

- The plain truth is
  - everyone of us will appear
  - before the judgment bar of God



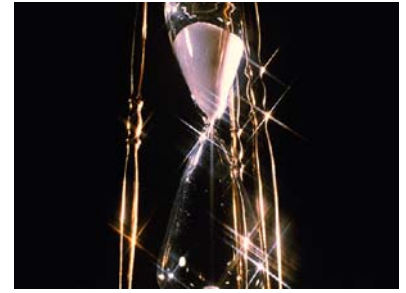
- But **how can I know I will pass the judgment?**
  - how—leave here tonight—confident I will pass?



- How can I leave here—knowing
  - when my name comes before God
  - when—final gavel falls
  - that I’m saved—the verdict is “forgiven”



- When—sands in—hour glass of time run out?
  - how can I be sure
  - live in heaven with God forever?
  - I certainly can't do it on my own



- Bible says—Isaiah 64:6

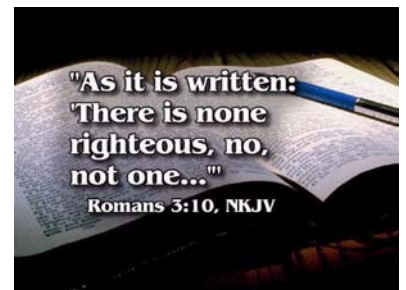
***“But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.”***



- All my good deeds—not sufficient—pass the judgment

- Romans 3:10 says,

***“As it is written; ‘There is none righteous, no, not one.’”***



- Nobody can pass the judgment alone.

—Nobody can pass—unless someone stands for us



- God's law condemns us. It not only says..

—don't kill—also—and don't even get angry  
—don't commit adultery—don't lust



- Are you pure? We can't pass the judgment unless –

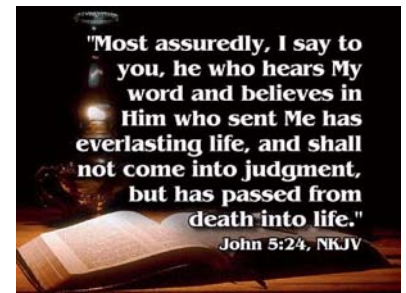
—we come to cross—we accept Christ's perfect life

- God loved you—sent Son—live and die for you

—in judgment—presents his righteousness in your behalf

- Christ steps forward—says—John 5:24

***“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”***



- Visitors to London—visit the royal mint **=====➔**



- This is where—British pound is minted **=====➔**



- Royal Mint—has extraordinary scale
  - the standard—weighing British money
  - Guide places two pieces of paper on the scale
  - Scale—so balanced—it doesn't move
  - Guide—writes his name—one piece of paper **==➔**
  - side—with the signature goes way down



- In the judgment—NOT good deeds against bad
  - it IS the **signature of the guide—Jesus**



- His promise is beautiful—in Hebrews 7:25 **=====➔**  
***“He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him,..”***

***“...since He always lives to make intercession for them.”***



- Can Jesus enable you—pass the judgment?
  - He is able—to the uttermost
  - those who come to God through Him.



- Only ones—won't be saved—those—don't come to God through Christ
  - Have you failed?
    - cursed—stolen—committed adultery?
    - or maybe you're a respectable sinner.

● *He is able to save to the uttermost those that come unto God by him. Since he always lives to make intercession for them.* Hebrew 7:25.

- When **my name comes up** before God
  - there is the catalogue of my sins—Jesus says
  - Father, you sent your spirit to his heart
  - Father, you loved him—I died for him—I intercede
  - He broke the law—but I kept the law
  - He deserves death—but I deserve life
  - Father, credit everything in my account to him
  - All the angel's sing—Jesus has never lost a case

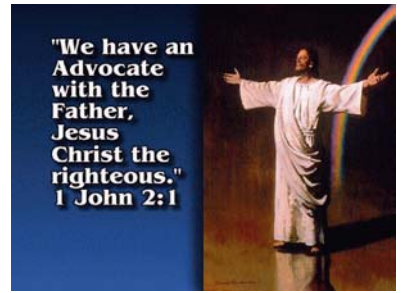
- Another man's name comes up
  - Lies—cheating—stealing
  - but he **never came to Jesus**

- God asks...
  - did I do everything I could to save him?
    - Yes—reached out in love and mercy
    - You could do nothing more



●Bible says—1 John 2:1

***“We have an Advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”***



●Yes, we have an advocate—Jesus Christ  
—one who represents us—has never lost a case



●When life comes to an end—on a bed of illness  
—bank account—doesn't make any difference  
—only one thing counts  
—is my life in Christ' hands?  
—that's—most important decision in my life



●Are there sins—you're clinging to—won't surrender?  
—God can't forgive sin  
—I choose—hold on to—I won't confess  
—Only— as I repent—confess—open my heart  
—can he save me—in this judgment hour



●Bible says—time is short=====➔

●Revelation 22:12 says...

***“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”***



●And our decisions now—settle our eternal destiny.

- Steve—raised—Christian home
  - attended—Christian school



- Steve's mother—faithfully—took him to church
  - Steve enjoyed spiritual things



- As—got older—drifted away from—religion—mom/dad
  - the things of this world—attracted him
  - he began drinking heavily
  - mom and dad—prayed—cried over him—nightly



- He rejected Christianity
  - lived the party life
  - one goal—to make money



- Steve, enjoyed sports
  - became a university swimming instructor
  - enjoyed his work—lack of peace in his heart



- At night—didn't sleep well
  - struggled—for or against Christ
  - thinking about religion of his childhood
  - prayers of mom & dad—touching his heart
  - one night—couldn't sleep

- Steve went—university swimming pool
  - loved diving—decided take—couple dives
  - release tension—anxiety
  - climbed up on diving board



- He was in—terrible mental anguish
  - thought of—judgment—eternity—salvation
  - stood on diving board
  - stretched out hands—make a swan dive
  - moon behind—formed silhouette—cross—wall=>



- Thought—picture—boyhood home
- “God, You’re giving me a sign of your love tonight.”

- Came down—high diving board
  - knelt by side of pool and said—accepted Jesus
  - Peace flooded into his soul

- Decided—go for a swim
  - climbed down ladder into pool—half-way down—no water
  - went to bottom of the pool—hadn’t seen—in darkness—pool was empty
  - cleaning pool—drained all water out
  - Had he dived—in darkness—killed himself

- Standing on—diving board
  - Steve’s night of judgment
  - Was saved—because—decided—give life to Christ





- You can make that decision tonight. –You can say...
  - Lord, I want to **reach up and take your hand.**
  - Lord, I'd rather have Jesus, than silver or gold
  - I'd rather have him, than have riches untold.



- You can have—assurance of salvation.
- Tonight—Christ wants to speak to your heart.
  - so you will make a decision for eternity.



- Ushers have a response card
  - I'm asking ushers—give you—that response card

- I'd like to read the response card with you.
  - Please take this time to meditate—think about this decision. This can be a life changing night for you. Let's read it together.

- 1<sup>st</sup> line: **“I invite Jesus to represent me in the judgment.”**
  - Maybe you've done it before—but you want to do it again.
  - Let's take a silent moment—between you and Jesus
  - If you want Him—represent you in the judgment. Just check that box.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> line: **“I want the robe of Christ' righteousness to cover my sins.”**
  - If you say, Lord, I am a sinner. I can never appear before God's judgment unless I'm covered by Jesus' righteousness. Check the second box.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> line: **“I love Jesus and desire to prepare for Bible baptism.”**
  - If you've never been baptized—Bible way—totally immersed
  - If you would like to be, check the third box

●4<sup>th</sup> line: **“I’d like someone to visit me and answer some questions on the judgement and Jesus’ soon return.”**

●If you’re a church member, please check that box and write in the blank the name of the church where you’re a member. We’d like to know the denomination with which you’re worshipping now.

●Write your name–address–phone number.

●As \_\_\_\_ sings the first verse of the beautiful hymn, “I’d rather have Jesus,” please fill out your card and when you’re finished pass it to the closest aisle.

(1<sup>st</sup> verse of “I’d Rather Have Jesus”)

1) I’d rather have Jesus than silver or gold, I’d rather be His than have riches untold;  
I’d rather have Jesus than houses or lands, I’d rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.

Chorus:

Than to be the king of a vast domain or be held in sin’s dread sway;  
I’d rather have Jesus than anything This world affords today.

By filling out this card you’re saying, “Jesus, I want to settle my relationship with you right now. I want to live with you in heaven. I know you’re reaching out to me, Lord. And I just want to seal my decision. I want to express my heart’s desire. I know this is just a check mark on a card. But it is a decision of my heart.

While we listen to the second verse, please complete and turn in your cards and the ushers will pick them up and bring them to the front. Then I’m going to pray that the Holy Spirit will seal your decision.

(2<sup>nd</sup> verse of "I'd Rather Have Jesus")

2) I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause, I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;  
I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide fame, I'd rather be true to His holy name.

3) He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom, He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;  
He's all that my hungering spirit needs, I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead.

Chorus:

Than to be the king of a vast domain or be held in sin's dread sway;  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything This world affords today.

Let's pray together. O, my father, You've seen those who have checked cards and you know the needs of every heart. Father, it's a simple check mark on the card. But it represents our commitment. It represents our faith. It represents our dedication. And we're thankful that together we can leave here knowing that we can come to God through Jesus. That he's able to save us. We're thankful that we need not fear being lost. That in Christ and by Christ, and through Christ we can pass the judgment. We come confessing our sin. We come repenting of our sin. And we come in Jesus' name before your throne, thanking you, that you'll save us. In Christ' name. Amen.