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## TIME OF DECISION

<sup>11</sup>*He who is unrighteous (unjust, wicked), let him be unrighteous still; and he who is filthy (vile, impure), let him be filthy still; and he who is righteous (just, upright, in right standing with God), let him do right still; and he who is holy, let him be holy still.*

<sup>12</sup>*Behold, I am coming soon, and I shall bring My wages and rewards with Me, to repay and render to each one just what his own actions and his own work merit. (Revelation 22:11-12 Amplified)*

*Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; <sup>13</sup> but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. <sup>14</sup> If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.*

<sup>17</sup>*For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" <sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. (1 Peter 4:12-19 NKJV)*

Now is the time for every Christian to show their true colors. All, but one, of Jesus' Apostles were martyred for their faith. The Apostle John, according to tradition was thrown into a pot of boiling oil and refused to burn. Instead, he preached to his tormentors and in the process got people watching the event saved!

John had a work to do and Jesus had responded rather sharply to Peter's question about John's death. *"He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. And after this, He said to him, Follow Me! <sup>20</sup>But Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved, following--the one who also had leaned back on His breast at the supper and had said, Lord, who is it that is going to betray You? <sup>21</sup>When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, Lord, what about this man? <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, If I want him to stay (survive, live) until I come, what is that to you? [What concern is it of yours?] You follow Me!" (John 21:19-22 Amplified)*

John indeed did see Jesus' return in a vision on the island of Patmos. In the Revelation of Jesus Christ to John we have been given a vision of things that were and are and are to come. I do not profess to be an expert on the Book of Revelation, but Revelation 22:11-12 is clear. When Jesus returns, it will be too late for decision making. The time of decision is now. Time is short. Jesus is coming quickly. I know this has been touted for two thousand years, and many have scoffed at the idea and many others do so today. However, look at the signs of the times. Compare them with what the Bible says about the 'end times' and the 'last days'. Was there ever a time such as that in which we live?

Perhaps you are saying to yourself “I’ve heard all this before.” Have you lived tomorrow? Are you prepared for tomorrow? Are you equipped for tomorrow? Is your faith built up for tomorrow? Do you have confidence in the God who can and will take care of your tomorrow?

Can you boldly and confidently say that because of your relationship with Him you have no worry or fear of tomorrow?

Should He return tomorrow can you confidently say He will be pleased with you? Remember Revelation 22:12 <sup>12</sup>*Behold, I am coming soon, and I shall bring My wages and rewards with Me, to repay and render to each one just what his own actions and his own work merit.* How have you acted? Have you been compromising or walking in integrity, truth and love?

Have you forgiven those who have wronged you, or are you still nursing old and bitter resentment? Peter says *“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters.”* Notice that being a busybody is listed right up there with murder and stealing. When we are busybodies, it encompasses not only meddling directly in other peoples’ affairs but also gossip, slander and being critical. This is so because our words carry either a creative or a destructive force. Jesus said in Matthew 12:36 (Amplified) *“But I tell you, on the day of judgment men will have to give account for every idle (inoperative, nonworking) word they speak.”* Paul also admonishes us in Philippians 4:8 (Amplified) *“For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them].”* Our minds cannot be fixed or focused on good, pure, gracious thoughts and at the same time negative, critical words about others come out of our mouths.

What about the “minor” things – do you park illegally, make illegal turns, cheat on your taxes, tell white lies, take extra time from the job when you can get away with it, pilfer from your employer, not give employees their due? Do you do such things because everyone does it? There is no “little” sin! There is no sin that God turns a blind eye to. If you are keen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, you will know when you have done wrong. When you commit these “little sins” it is as much wrong as stealing or murder! “Big” or “small” all sin is sin and must be repented of. All of this is a part of “being holy as God is holy”.

When you make the determination to act in accordance with God’s word, people will have a great deal to say. They will look for you to stray, and many will try to place stumbling blocks and temptation in your way. Remember, your holy walk is your choice and your decision. You must decide to do what is right regardless of the consequences. Charles Stanley has a phrase that he ends his program with “Obey God and leave the consequences to Him.” That is called walking by faith. We trust the Father that when we speak right and do what is right; He will ensure a result that is in our favor.

Sometimes we do what is right and, because of the world's system, we may suffer. Remember what Jesus said in Luke 6:22(Amplified): *"Blessed (happy-- with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, apart from your outward condition--and to be envied) are you when people despise (hate) you, and when they exclude and excommunicate you [as disreputable] and revile and denounce you and defame and cast out and spurn your name as evil (wicked) on account of the Son of Man."*

Why so many Christians are dying? It is because judgment has come to the house of God. Many five-fold ministers will be exposed if they are not walking with God as they should be. Many members of the congregation will become ill and die because they have opened a door for the enemy to attack. Many will die who have heard the Word, accepted Jesus but refuse to live the life Jesus expects them to live as a member of His Body.

What about you? To ensure your longevity, are you walking the walk that God expects of you?

Let us examine ourselves. Now is the time of decision. Judgment has begun in the house of God.