## THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Session Two November 20, 2019

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As we studied last week, at some time in human history, an entire generation will vanish - taken up by the Lord to ever be with Him.

# Two great questions emerge:

1. When will that be?

2. And where did they go?

## AND AN EVEN BIGGER QUESTION:

3. Are you among the missing?

1 Cor. 3:9-15

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. [10] According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. [11] For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; [13] Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. [14] If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

The Bible makes it clear that Christians will not be held in condemnation in eternity. That does not mean we don't face any judgments. We must all stand before God at the Judgment Seat of Christ - there to receive OR NOT TO RECEIVE awards.

- 2 Cor. 5:9-10 1
- Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be 2
- accepted of him. [10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat 3
- of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, 4
- according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 5

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Here is the ironic fact: Doing good things will not save us; however, we 7 must do good things to gain eternal rewards. 8

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- Here is the problem: We may think we are doing good things when, in 10 reality, we are motivated by selfish reasons rather than doing good 11
- things for Jesus' sake. 12

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Paul wrote that our works can be categorized in these divisions: 14

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#### **GOLD PRECIOUS STONES** HAY **STUBBLE** WOOD

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- Those last three items can be burned to nothing by fire; while gold and 18 precious stones are refined by fire. If all we have sent ahead to eternity 19
- is made up of hay, wood and stubble, it will soon be reduced to ashes by 20
- the fire. All we will have to lay at Jesus' feet will be ashes. 21

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- If, in the next few days, you were facing a life or death day in court, that 23
- would consume your thoughts. Day and night, that coming day would 24
- be stamped on your brain. Yet how little time most of us spend think 25
- about standing before a Holy God with the verdict coming which would 26
- rule all of our eternity! 27

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AFTER THE RAPTURE YOU AND I FACE THE JUDGMENT SEAT! 29

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- No one will be exempted from this hearing: FOR WE MUST ALL 31
- APPEAR! 32

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Now... to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. 34

1 Rev. 19:7-16

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of 2 the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. [8] And to her 3 was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: 4 for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. [9] And he saith unto 5 me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper 6 of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. 7 [10] And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See 8 thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have 9 the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the 10 spirit of prophecy. [11] And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white 11 horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in 12 righteousness he doth judge and make war. [12] His eyes were as a 13 flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name 14 written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed 15 with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of 16 God. [14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon 17 white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. [15] And out of his 18 mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: 19 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the 20 winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he 21 hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF 22 KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 23

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Dr. Pentecost observed: "This is a wedding such as could never be imagined on this earth, for it is the wedding of the Son of God to the One whom the Father has chosen to be His Bride."

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29 There were three basic parts to a wedding in Jesus' day:

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#### 1. THE BETROTHAL

- A contract was legalized with the engagement and could be broken only
- 33 by divorce. The contract was entered into by the father of the boy and
- the father of the girl. This is what made Joseph's situation with Mary so

tough when it was learned she was pregnant with Jesus, long before they 1 23 had come together in the marriage bed. 2 Cor. 11:2 4 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you 5 to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 6 7 8 THE PRESENTATION 9 The groom would say to the father, "Now is the time for you to meet my 10 bride." This is somewhat the picture when Jesus will say to His Father, 11 "I want my Bride, the Church." And the Rapture will take place. 12 13 14 3. THE WEDDING RECEPTION 15 The marriage supper of the Lamb. It is at this time that we lay at Jesus' 16 feet the jewels we have brought with us from this life - the gold and 17 precious stones, those things we did on earth to bring glory to Him – 18 NOT to us. 19 20 Rev. 19:7 21 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of 22 the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 23 24 Every eye at this glorious wedding will be on the GROOM, Jesus, not 25 the Bride, His Church. 26 27 The bride eyes not her garment 28 But her dear bridegroom's face, 29 I will not gaze at glory 30 But on my King of Grace. 31 Not at the crown He giveth, 32 But on His pierced hand. 33 The Lamb is all the glory 34

Of Immanuel's land.

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