



## When You Face God

You have an appointment that you cannot \_\_\_\_\_. One day you will \_\_\_\_\_ God in the Judgment. Today, we're exploring what it means to face God. We're here to \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures for God's will. Since the time is coming when all of us will face God and give an account for the lives that we've lived, it's necessary that we take time to see what the Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_ about our accountability toward God. Hebrews 4:12-13 says, "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the \_\_\_\_\_. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are \_\_\_\_\_ and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." Facing the God who already knows our hearts and our lives is not an \_\_\_\_\_ thing. Thankfully, through Jesus we have \_\_\_\_\_.

Many people think, like Adam and Eve, that they can do as they \_\_\_\_\_. They think of God as one from whom they can \_\_\_\_\_ their deeds. After they ate from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve discovered they were naked and hid from God in the bushes. God knew what happened, just as He knows \_\_\_\_\_ things. Adam and Eve \_\_\_\_\_ against God by eating of the fruit that was forbidden to them.

People today still think of God, and how He doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ what we do. God reported the sins of the wicked in Psalm 50:21, "These things you have done and I kept silence; You thought that I was just \_\_\_\_\_ you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes." God knows and will confront us one day.

### **Our reading today comes from Genesis 3:8-13.**

Many in our culture think little or nothing about the \_\_\_\_\_ when they're going to face God. They live their lives on their own terms according to their own \_\_\_\_\_. Many \_\_\_\_\_ God from their minds and their morals. Some have no \_\_\_\_\_ for God, and they'll be surprised one day to realize God is still God. He's still our Creator and our Judge. There will be \_\_\_\_\_ atheists on Judgment Day. No one can replace God, and no one can dethrone Him. No one can \_\_\_\_\_ His laws. He alone is the One who \_\_\_\_\_ heaven and earth.

It's astonishing what ways people \_\_\_\_\_ themselves rather than admit anything they've done is sinful. Solomon remarked, "Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have \_\_\_\_\_ out many devices" (Ecclesiastes 7:29). Some blame \_\_\_\_\_. Adam blamed Eve and God for giving her to him, and Eve blamed the serpent. Some blame God for making them the way they are and never consider their \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility.

James 1:13-16 says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I'm being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by \_\_\_\_\_, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he's carried away and enticed by his own \_\_\_\_\_. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to \_\_\_\_\_; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth \_\_\_\_\_. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren." If we sin, it's not because God led us into sin; but we sin because we gave into our \_\_\_\_\_ that carry us away into sin and spiritual death. We're responsible for what we do.

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**Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

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Some \_\_\_\_\_ to themselves and try to relabel their sins as something harmless and innocent, but they aren't fooling God. There is an old riddle which asks, "How many legs does a dog have if you call the \_\_\_\_\_ a leg?" Some might say, "five" but the answer is four. You see, calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ God's truth or God's morals no matter how hard you try.

Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which seems \_\_\_\_\_ to a man, But its end is the way of death." People don't like facing the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. They would rather \_\_\_\_\_ it or act like their sin doesn't and didn't happen. Proverbs 30:12 says, "There are those who are \_\_\_\_\_ in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth." They think what they are doing is acceptable in our \_\_\_\_\_, and so it must be acceptable to God; but God sees them as they really are. Proverbs 30:20 says, "This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and she wipes her mouth, and says, 'I have done \_\_\_\_\_ wrong.'"

The Lord Himself said, "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? I, the LORD, \_\_\_\_\_ the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his \_\_\_\_\_" (Jeremiah 17:9-10). Because of this, Jeremiah the prophet said, "I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to \_\_\_\_\_ his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

Hebrews 9:27 reminds us that "it's appointed for men to \_\_\_\_\_ once and after this comes judgment." God one day will \_\_\_\_\_ each of us according to the way that we've lived. Paul told the Stoics and Epicureans in Athens in Acts 17:30-31, "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should \_\_\_\_\_, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished \_\_\_\_\_ to all men by raising Him from the dead."

Many think God's \_\_\_\_\_ means He doesn't judge anymore. They see God in an unbalanced way. While God is the God of \_\_\_\_\_, He is still the Holy God, who is just and punishes sin and lawlessness. We can't intentionally live any way we \_\_\_\_\_ and then presume upon the grace of God. God's grace came at the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ of the precious blood of Jesus Christ; and we have no right to cheapen or take that grace for granted. Will God judge us today? Yes He will! He distinguishes the sheep from the goats, the righteous from the unrighteous.

Paul spoke to those who refused to repent, "But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you're \_\_\_\_\_ up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will \_\_\_\_\_ each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give \_\_\_\_\_ life; but to those who are self-serving and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, He will give wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every \_\_\_\_\_ of mankind who does evil, for the Jew first and also for the Greek, but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who does what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God" (Romans 2:5-11).

The apostle Peter also speaks of God's judgment and distinguishes the righteous from the unrighteous. Second Peter 2:4-10 says, "For if God did not spare \_\_\_\_\_ when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved \_\_\_\_\_, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an \_\_\_\_\_ to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul

tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to \_\_\_\_\_ the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority.”

There will be a Judgment Day for us all. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all \_\_\_\_\_ before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his \_\_\_\_\_ done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.” How we think, how we talk, how we treat others, how we observe God’s morals, and whether we follow the Lord will matter on that day. On that day, we’ll come face to face with the Lord and have to \_\_\_\_\_ him in the eye. Romans 14:12 says, “So then each one of us will give an \_\_\_\_\_ of himself to God.” God Himself is our final judge, and He will judge us by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ. His words will judge us on the last day (John 12:48).

We may consider the things that we say and do are like the culture around us, but being like the \_\_\_\_\_ hardly makes us right with the living God. Just because our \_\_\_\_\_ believes something doesn’t mean that God approves of it. Just because the masses approve or participate in some activity doesn’t mean God approves of that activity. God has determined what is right and wrong, good and evil, and righteous and unrighteous. God doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ His mind simply because something becomes fashionable and acceptable in society. Because the Lord Jesus will judge us on the last day, the Lord Jesus will have the \_\_\_\_\_ say. Since Jesus knows everything about us, we won’t be able to overrule or even to object to His \_\_\_\_\_. The Day of Judgment will come on the last day when the Lord Jesus comes from heaven and appears in the sky. That day every person will be \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead, and the earth and its works will be destroyed.

We don’t want to be like the five foolish virgins who failed to \_\_\_\_\_ for the coming of the Master. The Lord Jesus tells about what it will be like on that day of reckoning, “Then the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they didn’t take extra oil with them; but the prudent ones took oil in flasks with their lamps. Now while the groom was delaying, they all became drowsy and began to \_\_\_\_\_. But at midnight there finally was a shout: ‘Behold, the groom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. But the foolish virgins said to the prudent ones, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.’ However, the prudent ones answered, ‘No, there most certainly would not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the groom came, and those who were \_\_\_\_\_ went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Yet later, the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not \_\_\_\_\_ you.’ Be on the \_\_\_\_\_ then, because you do not know the day nor the hour” (Matthew 25:1-13).

My friend, no one can \_\_\_\_\_ for you. You have to do that on your \_\_\_\_\_. You may know many religious people, even some righteous people; but that doesn’t make you righteous or prepared. Jesus doesn’t accept everyone; He accepts those who \_\_\_\_\_ God’s will. The Lord Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the \_\_\_\_\_ of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; \_\_\_\_\_ from Me, you who practice lawlessness’” (Matthew 7:21-23).

The book of Revelation gives us a picture of that last day when every person will stand before the white \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus. “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and \_\_\_\_\_ were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their \_\_\_\_\_” (Revelation 20:11-12). You’ll notice that the present heaven and earth have \_\_\_\_\_ away; Revelation 21:1 says they have “passed away”; that is they are no more. You’ll also notice that we’re judged by what is \_\_\_\_\_ in the books. What books? The books found in the \_\_\_\_\_; they are God’s laws and commandments. They can’t be changed, and no one can \_\_\_\_\_ them on the last day. What God, through Jesus and through the Holy Spirit, said in the first century will stand as the whole \_\_\_\_\_ on the last day. God’s word is unchangeable.

Will you be ready to meet the Lord or will you hide from Him? Can you say, “Come quickly, Lord Jesus”; or will you have dread and fear the day that Jesus comes again?

God has called you to an appointment that you cannot \_\_\_\_\_. You’ll face God one day to give an account for what you’ve \_\_\_\_\_. Solomon wrote, “Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of your young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will \_\_\_\_\_ you to judgment for all these things” (Ecclesiastes 11:9). Wouldn’t it be \_\_\_\_\_ to have lived in rebellion to God only to find out God is real and He means what He says. He wants you, and He wants to make you His child and to \_\_\_\_\_ you forever and ever. Don’t turn from Him and lose your soul.

We often sing an invitation song: “Careless soul, why will you linger, Wand’ring from the fold of God? Hear you not the invitation? Oh, prepare to meet thy God. Careless soul, oh, heed the warning, For your life will soon be gone; Oh, how sad to face the judgment, Unprepared to meet thy God.”

There is a need to be prepared, and we do this by faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. A saving faith is one built upon Scripture. “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). Faith leads us to repent of our sins, denying ourselves so that we can serve Christ. Saving faith is always obedient, so we receive the word and are baptized into Christ, just as they did in Acts 2:38-41. Baptism into Christ is an immersion in water that unites us to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and frees us from sin according to Acts 22:16 and Colossians 2:12-13.