

## **“ARE YOU READY TO STAND BEFORE CHRIST?”**

### **CHRIST’S RETURN - PART 4**

Matthew 25:31-46

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**To be ready for Christ’s judgment, we must understand:**

**A. An important observation: Christ will determine our eternal destiny. (Matthew 25:31-46)**

1. Some will receive an inheritance and experience eternal life. (verses 34, 46)

“We’ve been born into the family of an incredibly wealthy landowner. There’s not a millimeter of cosmic geography that doesn’t belong to him, and by extension to his children, his heirs. Our Father has a family business that stretches across the whole universe. He entrusts to us management of the family business, and that’s what we’ll do for eternity: manage God’s assets and rule his universe, representing him as his image-bearers, children and ambassadors.”

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, 2004, p. 204.

2. Some will experience eternal fire and punishment. (verses 41, 46)

“Because God is the source of all good, and Hell is the absence of God, Hell must also be the absence of all good. Likewise, community, fellowship and friendship are good, rooted in the triune God himself. But in the absence of God, Hell will have no community, no camaraderie, no friendship. I don’t believe Hell is a place where demons take delight in punishing people and where people commiserate over their fate. More likely, each person is in solitary confinement, just as the rich man is portrayed alone in Hell (Luke 16:22-23). Misery loves company, but there will be nothing to love in Hell.”

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, 2004, p. 28.

**B. An important question: Is our eternal destiny based on our actions?**

1. No, because we are not justified by our actions, but by faith in Christ. (Galatians 2:15-16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Romans 5:1)

"We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."

Galatians 2:15-16

2. Yes, because faith without actions is dead. (James 2:14-26)

**C. An important conclusion: Our actions give evidence to a saving faith in Christ. (James 2:14-26; Titus 3:3-7; Matthew 25:31-46)**

"The good deeds commended in Matthew 25:35-36 are the fruit, not the root, of salvation."

John MacArthur,  
*The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 24-28*,  
Moody Press, Chicago, Illinois, 1989, p. 122.

**Where do I stand?**

1. I am confident that I will receive my inheritance and will enter into the Kingdom with Christ.
2. I am unsure of my eternal destiny.
3. I am not ready to trust in Christ for the forgiveness of my sins.