

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Death Is Not The End

Jerry Fite

 ur grave stone may be engraved with the date we ended our sojourning on earth; the adding up of our years on birthdays will end; but we need to remember that death is not really the end. The inspired writer of the book to the Hebrews affirms, “*And insomuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment; so Christ also, having been once offered to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time, apart from sin, to them that wait for him, unto salvation*” (Hebrews 9:27-28).

Following death comes the judgment. This is where the character of the life we lived meets up with Christ at His judgment seat: “*For we must all be made manifest before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad*” (2 Cor. 5:10). Jesus will appear a second time apart from sin, because his sinless life and sacrificial death was sufficient to save all, but this does not mean that “sin” will not be an issue. For He will come as our judge. The good and the bad we did in

our body will be what Jesus will recount and reward or condemn us accordingly.

In order to be properly prepared for this solemn occasion, we need to possess a mindset demanded by our Lord. He exhorts us, “*strive to enter in by the narrow door: for many, I say unto you shall seek to enter in, and shall not be able*” (Luke 13:24). The word “*strive*” denotes one expending much effort with strain and determination, as one participating in a wrestling match. Paul caught the idea of the effort needed as in a race when he said he was “stretching” forward and “pressing “on toward the lofty goal of heaven ( *Philippians 3:13-14*).

The narrow door and the straitened way leads to eternal life, and entering and traveling this way will demand the putting to death selfishness that is at the root of all sin. We must die to self, and obey our Lord if we are to be rewarded by our Lord at the judgment (*Matthew 7:13-14, 21*).

There is a mindset that needs to be avoided if we are to be properly prepared for the Judgment: honoring Jesus in many

ways but never submitting to His will. Jesus reminds us of those “who did many mighty works” honoring the right authority, - “in Jesus’ name,” but will hear, “I never knew you...depart from me” (*Matthew 7:22-23*). There will be those who will claim of eating and drinking in Jesus’ presence and hearing him preach in their streets, but will hear, “I know not whence ye are, depart from me...” (*Luke 13:26-27*). Why? Because they did not submit to obeying the Lord. They were “workers of iniquity” - acting without law (*Luke 13:27, Matthew 7:23*).

People heard Jesus preach without ever submitting their wills to His in simple obedience. Yet, there are some of you readers that have obeyed doctrines that Jesus never preached. You have been baptized for the wrong purpose thinking your sins were already removed when you claimed Jesus as your personal Savior—something Jesus never said or commanded. He said “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...*” (*Mark 16:16*). You need to obey Christ in the way He teaches you so you will not hear Him say to you, following death: “I never knew you”.