**The Four R’s of Judgment**

**Introduction:**

To quote a dearly loved gospel preacher who has gone on to his reward, *“When we stand before God, the judge of all, what will our sentence be?”* *Johnny Ramsey* When our life here on earth is ended, will we regret the bad decisions we made which led to our down fall? (Galatians 6:7) “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” NKJV Or, will we rejoice at the good decisions we made which led God to proclaim: “Well done good and faithful servant.” What will be our eternal destiny? What will the Day of Judgment be like for us?

**Body:**

1. **It Will Be A Day of Reckoning**

When we stand before our Creator, what kind of recompense will we receive? Will the writing on the wall be one of doom? (Daniel 5:22-28) “But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified. Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written. And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. ‘This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.’ ” NKJV Will we reap the whirlwind due to our ungodly lives? (Hosea 8:7) “They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no bud; It shall never produce meal. If it would produce, Aliens would swallow it up. NKJV Or shall we be like the five-talent man in Matthew 25:20-21? “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” NKJV

There is a book of remembrance. (Malachi 3:16) “Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name.” NKJV What will the contents say about you? Will we be able to say with Nehemiah “Remember me, O my God, for good!” (Nehemiah 13:30b)

1. **It Will Be A Day of Rest**

We live in a very wicked and immoral world. The faithful child of God can look forward to a rest from this sin-filled environment. (Hebrews 4:9-10) “There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.” NKJV The apostle John described this place as one free of pain and death. (Revelation 21:3-4) “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ’Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ ” NKJV No form of earthly corruption is allowed entrance. (Revelation 21:27) “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” NKJV We will enjoy a rest from our labors on earth. (Revelation 14:13) “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’ ” NKJV

1. **It Will Be a Day of Reunion**

Christ promised to come back for us so we could be with Him forever. (John 14:1-3) “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (I Thessalonians 4:16-17) “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” NKJV If we believe Jesus’ own words, then Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be there. ( Matthew 8:11) “And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.” Loved ones will be reunited. Hebrews 12:22-23) “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,” NKJV The greatest family reunion ever!

1. **It will Be A Day of Revelation**

God knows everyone of us as we really are. (Romans 2:16) “in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.” NKJV There is no pretending with Him. No past sins of which we have been forgiven will be remembered. (Jeremiah 31:34) “No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity and their sin I will remember no more.’ ” (Hebrews 8:12) “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” Truly all will be revealed. (Revelation 20:12) “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” NKJV

**Conclusion:** Each of us is given this time on earth to prepare for eternity. May we all heed the advice of Psalm 90:12. “So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.” NKJV Bobby Stafford May 7, 2017