

Join us for a Ride of a Lifetime...Relying on Our Risen and Righteous Savior as He Refines our Lives for the Journey Heavenward!

The “3 Rs Concept” for Effective Christian Living, Lesson #8



Every Christian should be experiencing the ride of a lifetime. How?

- By realizing our potential and making the best of what talents God has given us.
- By living a life of honor...honoring the God who gave us His best by giving us Jesus as our Righteous Savior.
- By relying not just on our deeds, but in deeds and loving care for others we make our journey to our heavenly home an exciting, rewarding, and memorable one.
- By giving back to Jesus all the praise due Him.

Calvary made it possible for us to live life more abundantly than all other religions!

*Years I spent in vanity and pride, Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died On Calvary.*

- *Refrain:
Mercy there was great, and grace was free; Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty At Calvary.*

*By God's Word at last my sin I learned; Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned,
Till my guilty soul imploring turned To Calvary.*

*Now I've giv'n to Jesus everything, Now I gladly own Him as my King,
Now my raptured soul can only sing Of Calvary!*

*Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan! Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span At Calvary!*

What makes Jesus the Savior...the Exceptional One? Is it His sinless nature? Is it His love for mankind?

RELIABILITY...Jesus is RELIABLE when He speaks, RELIABLE when He gives us a peek at heaven, and RELIABLE when He opens the door to the Father.

Love for mankind and His brothers and sisters who will be with Him forever. Complete respect for His Father in heaven. Completed sacrifice once and for all...for all who believe!

Words that are used to depict Jesus!

The Almighty, Alpha and Omega, Author and Perfecter of our faith, Source of eternal salvation, Ruler of God's Creation, Beloved Son, Blessed and Only Ruler, Bread of Life, Chief Shepherd, Capstone, Counselor, Creator, Deliverer, Chosen of God, Everlasting Father, faithful witness, Glory of the Lord, God, Great High Priest, Head of the Church, Heir of all things, Holy One, Holy One of God, I AM, Image of God, Immanuel (God with us), Judge of Israel, Righteous One, King Eternal, King of the Ages, Lamb of God, Leader, Life, Light of the World, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Lord of All, Lord our righteousness, Mediator, messenger of the covenant, Anointed One, Morning Star, Our Passover, Author of Life, Prince of Peace, Redeemer, Resurrection and Life, Rock, Rose of Sharon, Savior, Truth, True Vine, the Witness, Word, the Word of God, and the Author of our Salvation.

The goal of the vision of Christ in Revelation 1:12-17 is not to tell us what Jesus looks like, but rather who Jesus is....and that is the truth found throughout the Word of God.

Revelation 1:12-17, "I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man,"[a] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last."

He is:

- ***The Perfect One***
- ***The Only Pure One***
- ***The Source of Strength***
- ***The Sound of Love***
- ***The Everlasting Light***

What will happen when the believer sees Jesus?

The believer will see/feel/know:

- *Unblemished purity and unbending strength.*
- *Will feel His unending presence and know His unbridled protection.*
- *All that He is, you will be....for you will be like Jesus!*

The promise of John. "We know that when Christ comes again, we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He really is." 1 John 3:2.

- *Since you'll be pure as snow, you will never sin again.*
- *Since you will be as strong as bronze, you will never stumble again.*
- *Since you will dwell near the river, you will never be lonely again.*
- *Since the work of the priest will have been finished, you will never doubt again.*

Heaven...God and His Son will be with us...forever!

Refining our Lives for the Journey Homeward!

Jesus intends to refine us, just as a jeweler smelts precious metals to purify them and to separate them from the worthless dross which is mixed in with them.

Jesus is doing this now as we live our lives on planet earth. However, when Jesus returns in His glorified resurrection body and judges us at the Judgment Seat of Christ, He will complete the refining process.

At the Judgment Seat He will assess our lives and He will take away all that remains of the dross. He will also burn up all the wood, hay and stubble. Then he will see how much, or how little, of value is left intact, after that process of smelting or burning is complete.

Two passages which refer to this future event.

² "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness. Malachi 3:2-3 (NASB)

We are all going to be judged in the end and we see here that one of the main criteria Jesus will use for judging us is how much real precious metal is left behind when the dross in our lives is burned away. The gold and silver represent those things we did in obedience to His Word, i.e. the things God wanted us to do and which were done in the right manner and with the right motives. The dross is everything else, i.e. the willful, selfish, impetuous, carnal things we did which were not God's will and which He did not ask us to do.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other

than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw — ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.
1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (ESV)

At the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will be individually rewarded, or not rewarded, and praised or rebuked. Some of the key factors that Jesus will evaluate in His role as our Judge are the extent to which we have been salt and light, our obedience, our faithfulness, and how much fruit we planted, sowed, and reaped.

Since we already know in advance that we are going to be judged in this way by Jesus, doesn't it make sense to try, as much as possible, to bring that judgment process forward into the present?

We can do that by inspecting and judging ourselves in comparison to God's Word.

- **If we do that, then we can simply alter our attitudes and behavior now, as we see that they are against God's Word and are wrong in His sight.**
- **It can also come by praying for Jesus to expose our errors and sins, right now, so that you can adjust and repent of them *before you get to the Judgment Seat.***

Are you inspecting your fruit now? You are the one that has planted your fruit...now, are you pruning your fruit (yourself)?

Note: Prior to our participation in taking Communion, we are to inspect ourselves and repent of any sin that has entered our minds and heart.

1 Corinthians 11:25-30, "In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

We should rejoice...for our salvation has been purchased by the blood of Jesus!