
ARE YOU READY?
It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.
HEBREWS 9:27 (The Bible)
BY ALLEN MADIGAN

A TROUBLED WORLD

We live in a troubled world full of uncertainty and fear. Wars bring death and destruction. Heat waves, forest fires, floods, famine, disease, violence, drug abuse, and immorality plague our communities. But the greatest problem is not the trouble around us; it's the sin within us. Romans 3:23 says, **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."** Sin has separated us from a holy God (ISAIAH 59:2). We look to governments, influential people, big businesses, and religion for solutions.

WHO CAN HELP? The Bible points us to the answer: a person - Jesus Christ, God's Son. He died on the cross in our place and bore the punishment our sins deserved. **"God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"** (ROMANS 5:8). If we turn from our sins and place our faith in Jesus Christ, trusting Him for salvation, we will have **"peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"** (ROMANS 5:1).

Jesus Christ not only died, but He rose again from the dead. He is alive today and is coming again. Jesus promised believers in John



14:2-3, **"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 unto Myself."** When He comes, those who have trusted Him will go to be with Him, but those who haven't trusted Him will face God's judgment.

GET READY Students study for upcoming tests; people prepare for job interviews; vacations are booked in advance; and retirement funds are set aside throughout careers. We all prepare for what we know is coming. Matthew 25:13 tells us that we **"know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."** Jesus then talks about people who thought they were prepared for His return, but were not. Salvation isn't through good works, religion, or personal merit, but through faith alone in Jesus Christ and His finished work. Have you prepared to meet God?

TIME IS SHORT 2 Corinthians 6:2 reminds us, **"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."** None of

us is promised tomorrow. Now is the time to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and receive His freely-offered gift of salvation. He promises, **"Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out"** (JOHN 6:37) and, **"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"** (ROMANS 10:13). Won't you turn from your sin and trust Jesus Christ today? He has done everything necessary to save you and give you peace.

IT IS WELL

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded
my helpless estate,
And has shed His own blood for my soul.

-Horatio Gates Spafford (1873)

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