

# Judgment Day!

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*Father, this morning, we just come to You, Lord, both to speak and to hear, to believe and to obey. We need You because without You, outside of You, we can do nothing. So, this morning, we just come, Father, as Your children and we just surrender at Your feet and I pray, Lord, that You would speak to us, teach us. Teach us, Lord. You are the eternal Rabbi, eternal Teacher. You alone have the words of life. Speak to us. Speak to our inner man, speak to our spirit, our soul, our whole being, Lord, speak. Your Word has never lost its power. It still has the same power when You first spoke creation into being. Lord, speak into us too, Lord, today. We wait at Your feet, Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

So, we had a baby dedication, and we are just four days away from a wedding. See, life is usually packed with events. That's why today we even have what is called an event manager who will help us to prepare for this events in so many different ways – how to prepare for a baptism, how to prepare for weddings jobs, homes, houses cars. Every event in life, you need to be prepared but actually if you look at it, there is no guarantee about any of these things. There is no guarantee that you will get married. There is no guarantee if you get married, you will have a child. There is no guarantee you will have a job or if you have one you will keep it. There is no guarantee even if you have a job, you will be able to buy a home. See, almost for everything in life, there is no guarantee. There is only one guarantee in life. It is one of the most sobering verses in the Bible. One event nobody can miss. In *Hebrews 9:27*, Scripture says,

## **Hebrews 9:27**

***<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,***

Don't look depressed. I'm not going to talk about death today but I'm talking about an appointment. It's an appointment no man, no woman, no child, nobody can miss. Often people prepare for this, those who prepare. Most people don't prepare because they are caught by accident by this event but those who prepare, prepare for it in a very worldly manner. People invest in a small piece of real estate like Abraham in the grave yard. Remember that was the only piece of earth Abraham possessed in the Promised Land, the Bible says, "He bought a plot to bury his wife." So, some people buy a plot in advance. Some people even put away money for a coffin and will leave a will behind saying, "This is what I leave behind and this is the kind of coffin I require." I'm waiting to see when the ad will come, buy a plot in our cemetery, coffin free. Some people go even little further they donate, when they are living they write and give their body parts to help others when they die. Some people go the whole nine yards, they give their entire body to these medical schools and if you ask medical students, you will see there are bodies on which they first practice their surgeries. Different ways people prepare for death. That's not what the Bible is talking about. Scripture talks about something after that. Scripture says, "It is appointed for men to die once," but it doesn't stop there. It says, "After that, this. It's the judgment." After that, it is judgment. When the writer of *Hebrews* puts the foundational fundamental teachings for every Church in the past two thousand years. He's put down six foundational, elementary teachings on which our lives should be based. He puts this there and this is the way he says

## **Hebrews 6:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection,*** (but he is not going to talk about what is the elementary teaching before we can go to perfection. Let us go. What is that?) ***not laying again the foundation of*** (This is the foundational teaching. First one.) ***repentance from dead works and of*** (Two) ***faith toward God,*** <sup>2</sup> (Three) ***of the doctrine of baptisms,*** (Various baptisms in the Bible) of (Four) ***laying on of hands,*** (Five) ***of resurrection of the dead,*** and (Six) ***of eternal judgment.***

*Hebrews 9:27* says it appointed unto man to die once and after that is this, judgment. *Hebrews 6:2* will tell you the nature of that judgment. It is eternal judgment. Kids in another month some of them already started. You have what is called final exam, it is not called eternal exam. It is final exam. Yes, it is final exam, but even if you fail or do not do well in certain subjects, you can still go back and spend one more year to improve. But this is not that way. Once you die, judgment, whatever comes from the throne room of God is eternal. There is no way anybody can change that judgment, nobody can change it. So, since nobody can escape death, technically, we cannot prepare for death. We shouldn't prepare for death, what we should do is to be prepared for the judgment that comes after death. The best way to be prepared for death is to

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be prepared for this judgment every day. Then, death is not fearsome, death is a welcome door unto the next life. So, a man who is prepared for judgment, lived his life in the light of eternal judgment, when his death is approaching close by, he says, "I've fought the good fight, I've finished my course and I've kept the faith and I see my crown." He's already seen his judgment because he prepares for judgment, he was not preparing for death. Lot of people prepare for death but they don't understand, it is not for death that we prepare. For every one of us, James will put this imagery, like, who are we? We are like the vapor here today and gone tomorrow. Like the grass of the field another writer will say, there today and gone tomorrow. It doesn't matter how young and healthy you may look today, this could be your last day. Only today we live; tomorrow is not guaranteed. So, everybody live in the light of eternal judgment. We don't have to be afraid. The Bible is very, very clear. There are two deaths. We saw the resurrection of death in Hebrews 6. Every man from Adam to the last man when the trumpet blows, everybody will rise. This is how he describes in *Revelation 20:11-15*,

### **Revelation 20:11-15**

**<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

This is how this creation ends and chapter 21 onwards is the new creation. So, we cannot escape death. What we can prepare for is for this judgment. If you read Scripture closely, the first preparation you and I have to make is to be very sure that our name is in the Book of life. The Bible is absolutely clear, there is no migration of souls. Nothing like that. There are two deaths. First death and the second death. Everybody will go through the first death but it is God's desire everybody doesn't go through the second death, no one should but many will. So, the first preparation is life is to make sure your and my name is there in the Book of life. This entire gospel is tuned to preparing people to escape the second death. It is not about this world, it is not about this life, it is not about career, nothing. The whole thrust of the gospel is to escape the second death, to see that our names are in the Book of Life. Yet, on earth, people are more worried about the first death and there is only one way to escape the second death. There are many ways to hell but only one way to heaven. *John 10:9*, Scripture says

### **John 10:9**

**<sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**

I am the door. There is only one door. You want to enter into heaven, you want to have your name written in the Book of life, there is only one door, one portal. Only one door and Jesus is the door. There is no other door. In *John 14:6*, Jesus said,

### **John 14:6**

**<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

In *Acts 16*, when the jailer asks the question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. You and your household."

### **Acts 16:30, 31**

**<sup>30</sup> And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."**

That's the only way, there is no other way. Nothing of man, all our works, whatever we have done or planning to do is going to make any difference. The only way we can get our name in that Book is believing what God says. You have to believe in My Son, that's the only way. There is no other way. Once your name is there in the Book of Life, stay in Him. See that your name remains in that Book. It is God's birth register. Stay in Him, see that your name remains in that Book. People don't believe this but it is written in the Bible in *Revelation 3:5*,

**Revelation 3:5**

<sup>5</sup> *He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life;*

So, when you have a usage like that, that also means there is always a possibility that our names can be blotted from the Book of Life. It's simply that's how freewill works. The Kingdom of God is open but you and I have to choose to enter into the Kingdom of God. That is the freewill which God has given us. We have to choose. Now, it then doesn't make sense that after I have entered into the Kingdom of God, my freewill is taken away. I can never get out. Now, even if I don't like it. I'm destined to spend an eternity with a God I don't like anymore. It doesn't work. So, God says, "First, see that your name is there.

Second, see that it's never blotted. Work towards growing in that life. Stay in Him." So, we will see that until we really die, we will never realize the value of God's own Son, what He did for us on the cross, the value of the Word of God and the value of the Church, until we die, we will not realize how important, these three things played in our life. Do you remember the Parable of Lazarus and the rich man? Do you remember the cry from hell? This is the cry from hell.

**Luke 16:27-29**

<sup>27</sup> *"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,*

The man died and he woke up in hell and realized everything he had read in the Jewish Torah was true but he hadn't believed. Please, he's crying,

<sup>28</sup> *for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'*

They were Torah believing Jews. Religion made no difference because they hadn't believed the Blood of the Lamb. He said, "I've got five brothers" Abraham's answer is,

<sup>29</sup> *Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'*

He says, "if you don't hear the Word and believe in it, even if somebody goes back from the dead and speaks, nothing is going to change their life." Salvation is only one way. You have to believe what God has said; this is the way, the only way. Every man, from this we can have a premise that every man in hell is a very energetic evangelist but he had no audience and he's a literal fire and brimstone preacher. So be sure, always be sure your name is there. Continue to walk in Him, continue to be faithful and when you fail, repent, walk in repentance constantly. Bible will say, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. So, how do I prepare, not for death but for judgment, if, I believe, your name is in the Book of Life, then funny thing is that, knowingly or unknowingly, everyone is preparing for the day of judgment. The apostles knew about it that, it is not an easy day. In *2 Corinthians 5:11*,

**2 Corinthians 5:11**

<sup>11</sup> *Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men*

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, not fear, terror of the Lord, we persuade men. It is not going to be a pleasant day for everybody. It's going to be a terrible day. It's an incredibly terrible day. Remember the portion we read from *Revelation 20*. It says on that day, heaven and earth fled from His face. It's a terrible day. So, if they are saying knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men, don't take this message lightly. The Apostles have cried and died for this message. In *Hebrews 12*, when God talks about the shaking of everything he says,

**Hebrews 12:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.* <sup>29</sup> *For our God is a consuming fire.*

And like I said in *Revelation 20:11*, Scripture says that day, everything fled from before Him who sat on it. You have to see the two sides of God. Paul will say consider the kindness and the severity of God. Yes, we enjoyed worship today. Yes, we love the songs today. Yes, we want to be held His arms protected but that day. Nobody is going to be held in His arms. It's a

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different Jesus altogether. It is a Judge on His seat. When a judge sits on his seat, it is different, it's an office. There are no sentiments there. Books are opened. Yet the Apostles and the Holy Spirit through them gave people the confidence. You don't have to be scared, this is not a scary message. You don't have to be scared. In *1 John 2*, he says.

### 1 John 2:27

***<sup>27</sup> But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.***

Yesterday, those who were there what was the message we heard about? Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. And when you know you have grieved Him, but it right very fast because you will never survive without the Spirit of God and you remember the illustration I gave you yesterday? Scripture talks about us as clay, God as the potter and the Holy Spirit as water. When the clay has water in it, you can mold it. But as the water decreases, the clay gets harder and harder. You take wet clay, you don't have to do anything, just put it under the fan and come back ten or fifteen minutes later. It is hard. Come after an hour, it starts cracking. All you have to check is, is my heart getting more tender or harder. You will know whether the influence of the Spirit of God in your life is increasing or decreasing. That's why God says, "Do not grieve My Spirit." It's easy. You can know. These are not unknowable things. These are not mysteries. These are all there in the Bible. God says, "Don't grieve My Spirit." Then, He'll go further and say, "Do not quench My Spirit." That is what will happen in the last days. There is a hardening taking place. Why is it happening? Because the Holy Spirit has been grieved and grieved and He's withdrawing. He's drawing from the lives of people. He's withdrawing from Churches. And as He withdraws from the lives of people and the Churches, you can see as God goes out the world comes in. The world comes in and we become more and more tolerant to everything which is happening in the world. Why is it happening? Because the Spirit of God is withdrawing. So they will say, "Learn from that anointing. Abide in Him." Abide. Stay.

### 1 John 2:28

***<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.***

You don't have to be ashamed. You can be bold. You can be confident on that day. You don't have to be ashamed. He says, "But it is conditional to us to continuously learn of the Spirit of God and to abide in Christ." That's why I said it's not enough to get your name written on the book, grow consciously, continuously. Grow in Him. Because there is a day that has been said about through the Bible as the day of judgment. It is timeless. So, we are not saying that the day is twenty-four hours because there is no time then. So, we don't even measure it in terms of time. Let us see how Bible talks a few things about what will happen on that day.

### Romans 14:11-12

***<sup>11</sup> For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." <sup>12</sup> So then each of us shall give account of himself*** (Not his family, not his wife, not a husband. Each one will stand alone. Nobody to support your argument. Each one stands alone before God,) ***to God.***

"Each one" God says, "will give an account of himself to God."

*2 Corinthians 5:10* will give us more information.

### 2 Corinthians 5:10

***<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.***

So, we have to give an account, personal account. Two: it will be an account of our deeds. It doesn't stop there.

### Matthew 12:36

***<sup>36</sup> But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.***

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You give an account of your entire life. You give an account of your deeds. You give an account of your words. Not words alone, it doesn't even stop there.

### **Hebrews 4:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> *For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* <sup>13</sup> *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

It's not just an account of our life, not just an account of our deeds, not just an account of our words, we have to give an account of our thoughts and our intentions. Not only that, we'll also have to give an account of our attitude.

### **Matthew 11:29**

<sup>29</sup> *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

He says, "Are you meek? How meek did you become?" You see, whenever you make a judgment in sports or anything. You have a judgment. You have a standard. Every judgment is based on a standard. Remember the standard of judgment is Jesus Christ. We'll be judged. Each one will stand before God. And there is Jesus sitting before us and what are we being judged about is, how much of Jesus did we allow to grow in us? Attitude. *1 Peter 3:4* Scripture says,

### **1 Peter 3:4**

<sup>4</sup> *rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*

So, you have five things mentioned over there. Five things mentioned over there. What are those? Thoughts, intentions, attitude, words, and deeds. If you look at these five – I taught the pastors last Saturday – two are hidden. Nobody can read your thoughts or your intentions. Attitude is sometimes hidden, sometimes revealed. It's half hidden and half revealed. You cannot be very sure about the attitude. For some people, their attitude stinks. So, it's visible. Some have a very gentle, meek attitude. So, it's visible. Not always. But thoughts and intentions are hidden. Attitude may or may not be hidden. But words and deeds are revealed. But God says, "It is not enough. These five have to come in one line. Then only you get the full picture of what Jesus is." That is the Holy Spirit is trying to do in each one of us to see that we become what Scripture calls 'whole' – a complete person. Remember, it all begins with thoughts. If you can tackle it here, the rest can be tackled. That's why Scripture says, "Meditate upon My word day and night. Meditate upon My word." Because the Bible reveals the thoughts of God. It reveals the thoughts of God -- how does God think. If we can align our mind slowly as the Holy Spirit enables us to the way God thinks, the rest will start falling into place. The anointing will teach you. The Church is a place, let me tell you, where God's people are being prepared for eternal judgment. It's a place where God's people should be. I can't say. It's a place because every Church, I cannot say. I don't know. But it should be a place where God's people are prepared, being prepared for eternal judgment. It is not a place of entertainment, though there may be some entertainment. It is not a place where you get six tips or seven tips how to improve in this world. On the contrary, the Church is a place where you are taught how to resist the world.

*Romans 12:2.* The cry of the Holy Spirit through the apostle is,

### **Romans 12:2**

<sup>2</sup> *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Do not be conformed to this world. Now, let me ask you this question: do you know that almost every Ivy League university, the big ones, in the western world, any university, you name it, in the western world, the old big ones, the famous ones, you know why they were established? They were established to train men to become teachers of the word, every one of them. All of the universities where people now go to the US consulate, stand in line, willing to take a loan, pay a fortune to go and study were all started to teach people the word. That's what education meant for thousands of years. You may learn other subjects, but this was the core text. The core text was always the Bible. Today, what have we done? We have taken God and His Word out and have made secular education an idol. And the biggest idolaters are Christians. We have taken God and His Bible out. Replaced it with education. And without naming it, we all worship 'Saraswathi' (the Indian god who

symbolizes education). Education is our idol. But that was not ever for thousands of years, what education meant. Education meant a man is educated in the ways of God, with the mind of God. That's what all these universities originally started for. Harvard University. Every knows Harvard? John Harvard by who's name after it is named was a Presbyterian preacher. Princeton University, the next big one, was started by the New Life Presbyterians to train their pastors. Yale University was started by the Congregational Church to train their pastors. In all these places, you cannot take the name of God anymore. You're not even allowed to pray. All these places started to train people to study the Word, to preach the Word and how to live for God. So, we took God out. We took the word out. Now, we're wondering why our children are on drugs and killing each other down to last week. Not just in US, everywhere. Because if you take God out and make education into an idol, the devil will move in. He moves in. You left that space empty. Not only does he move in alone, he brings seven others more wicked than him. That's what we have done. And we are guilty. As parents, we are guilty. The children are going haywire every day because their minds are warped. How does the Bible begin? What's the first line in the Bible? In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. What is the first thing you learn in school? Evolution. You take the first line out of the Bible, the whole Bible collapses. First attack is in *Genesis 1:1*. Now, if you go to the universities here or abroad or anywhere, what is the entire attack on? You don't even realize. You are subscribing to that. It is on gender. God said, "He created them male and female." They say, "No way. That's not how it is. We decide what gender is." You take the first one out. You start taking everything out. You know what? We pay through our nose to that idol called education. So, that you would succeed in this life without preparing for a life for a day when judgment will be set. And we wonder why Christians are depressed and discouraged. Because God says, "You worship another god. Not me." You go to schools. You should go to colleges. You should study well. But those are all for skills you should learn without ever forsaking the core text-- the Bible. This should be the center, the core of your life. And I'm telling you, every Christian in every Church, including the Church, let exam come. The children are absent. Why? Because you have replaced this core text with another text with an idol called education. Then, a day will come and they will go to the world and they will be swallowed by the world and you will cry out, "Lord, where are my children?" God will say, "But did you offer them on the altar? Saraswathi took them." This is the center. This is the core. And they're watching. They're learning. They're seeing that you don't mean what you say. That you don't believe what you say. You've substituted gods. Unless we as God's people humble ourselves and return back to God, His place, His Kingdom, and His place and His Word, another generation will rise who will not know God. Not only that, who neither cares for God. Another generation has already risen. You know the latest Barna poll in the US says the actual number of believers in America is only 10%. I was shocked when I heard that, because the last hope was that US has got lots of born agnosts. They said, "No. They don't even know their word. They don't know what they believe in." But don't blame the children. Don't blame the youth. Because you blame any campus, you will see the youth has energy. They have enthusiasm. Even if it is misinterpreted and misinformed, they have energy. In all the campuses, they're always fighting for some cause – Me too; Black lives matter. Something or the other. They're always fighting for something because they have energy. They're fighting for a cause. You know why they're fighting for a cause and they never stop fighting? They lose battles, but they never stop fighting. You learn from Scripture. When Joshua was fighting the Amalekites which means the flesh, it never says Joshua got tired of the battle. It only said, "Moses got tired of praying." Because an older generation stopped praying, a younger generation has gone for slaughter. Joshua never stopped fighting. He never got tired of fighting. Moses' hands got weary of prayer. So, don't blame the younger generation. We have to take the blame. We put our hands down. And they never start losing the battle. But they never stop fighting. They're still fighting in the campuses for different rights. If they don't find something, they will fight for a beetle or some snail or some whale; some cause they will fight for, because they have the energy to fight. But the real battle they should be fighting for, they're not fighting, because we put our hands down. We grew weary. We grew tired. So, learn from Scripture. Joshua didn't get tired. Moses grew weary. One generation grew weary. Another generation lost their battle. It doesn't mean they stopped fighting. We have to put the blame where it really goes so that another generation will come back. This will take humbling from the older generation; great weeping in the prayer closet and crying out saying, "Lord, let our children come back from the enemy's land." Because He had said, "You do this, this is exactly what will happen to your children. You will wait and watch. Wait and watch. But your children will be taken away as captives. They will go. They are prospering in this world, but captives to the devil and their names are not there in the Book of life. Because we never thought that was important. So, take lives seriously. Look at how God looks. Because this is what Jesus died for. Jesus did not die for me so that I could have a career in the university unless that was His purpose for me there where I would be His witness. He didn't die for that. He died so that I would have His life and His life would be a witness to the next generation. These are eternal truths, because there is a day that is coming. That's why God says, "My people perish because of the lack of knowledge." People have knowledge about everything. Every little thing in the world is available now on internet and Whatsapp and all this information is passed around. How much knowledge do you have of this – the Bible – the only thing that you will take

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across that will enable you to stand on that day. How much knowledge do we have? This is knowledge that will stand on your behalf on that day – Lord, I knew it. I repented. I changed. I allowed this to determine my life and my course. And Your Spirit gave me the strength, Lord. You said, here I stand.

Isn't that how on the day of judgment for Israel on the Mount Carmel Elijah happen? One man alone. Millions of people standing around. One man alone did everything. Stepped out and said, "Lord, I have done according to Your word. Now, prove Yourself." Will we be able to say, "Lord, I did this"? Give me an account. Okay. February the 21<sup>st</sup>, there is no memory loss in heaven. Everything will be vividly remembered. All the constrictions of flesh is gone and books are opened and record is there. That's why it says, "Books are opened and the book of life." Everything. This is what one angel will say, "Lord, this is what he thought." Another will say, "This is what his intention was. And Lord, this was his attitude. This is what he said. This is what he did." Lord says, "Hypocrite! You said one thing. You thought another thing. Your intention was different." Deeds, everybody said, "Wow! What a wonderful deed!" God said, "You did deeds before men. You did not do your deeds before God." Are you getting it? We're talking about losing of salvation if you're saved. This is about the losing of your reward. Because the Bible talks about a whole set of people coming in with no rewards at all. Because they were not prepared for eternal judgment. We don't want that. No teacher, in his right mind, in your schools, will ever prepare a set of students to fail in the exam. I should be out of my mind if I'm preparing my Church on that day to fail. I'm accountable only for what I teach. I'm not accountable for what you learn. That you are accountable for. That's why Scripture says in *James 3:1*, I didn't give it, but it is there. Brethren, many of you should not be teachers.

### **James 3:1**

***<sup>1</sup>My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.***

Ah! many many pastors in the world are going to cringe on that day, because they did not teach their people what they should be taught. They were men pleasers. They gave them what they wanted. They used nice sounding words like hyper-grace and radical grace, but never prepared them for that day, that day when heaven and earth will flee from His face and judgment will be eternal. "Stricter," He says, "because you will be accountable for what you taught."

We are being prepared for a day – eternal judgment. That's what is happening. This book is being taken out; gathering dust in our homes. It has become a ritual. Hundred years back, hundred and fifty years back when people went to the universities and studied and meditated and in the process learned few skills also; some science also on the way. Today, this has become a ritual. If we are very hurried, "One small portion. Okay. Done my portion. Okay. Reading for science." How it changed! How we have changed! The devil knows the power of this word. He knows it was This that defeated him. When Jesus was alive, He defeated him with three Scriptures from the *Book of Deuteronomy*. When He died, it was the Word of God that defeated him on the Cross. But Jesus was the Word of God. He knows the power of This. So, he will do everything possible in his strength to keep us away from this one Book. He doesn't care what other book you read. He doesn't care. As long as you don't read this Book, he's very happy. One place he will try to keep you away from a place a Church where the Word of God is taught. Every other place, he says, "I will give you free transport." Remember? God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. He went down to Tarshish. Immediately, there is a boat going straight. And one berth is also vacant. He paid the fare. Went inside the deck and fell asleep. How convenient! You see, when you want to go away from God, the devil will pay your bill. And you will say, "Hallelujah! Lord, I got my breakthrough." God says, "No. You're going to break through one day." Because you had no discernment. Absolutely no discernment. You had no knowledge about the Kingdom of God on earth. That's why they said, "Rabbi! Teach us to pray," He said, "This is how you should pray – Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name." Is His name hallowed? "Thy Kingdom come. They will be done on earth." It's very simple. Such a simple prayer, but which has also become a ritual.

Now, let me tell you about *Revelation 20*, because many, many well-meaning scholars, pastors past and present, all believe that *Revelation 20* is talking only about the unsaved.

### **Revelation 20:12**

***<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God...***

I personally choose to disagree because of certain verses there. My question is: if *Revelation 20*, which happens after the thousand year reign of Jesus on earth is only talking about unsaved people, then answer to me *verse 12*.)

***...and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life...***

If these are people who are not saved, why should you open the Book of Life? Their names are not there anyway. No? God doesn't play games. He doesn't play dice.

***...And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.***

If all the people sitting here are condemned to hell, nobody's name is there in the Book of Life, then why should you open that book? It should have only said, "Other books were opened." All of you are meant for hell. Each one come here. Let me see. Why? The reason? Because of the lake of fire, like I told the pastors. Fire means, different degrees. Surface degree – 100. Little below – 200. Little below – 300. Little below – 500. When you have to spend eternity in the fire, 100 and 200 makes a lot of difference. That's how judgment is given. "This fellow, Hepsibah, not so bad. Okay. 100 degrees for eternity." "And you, you! 500 hundred degrees." Think about that. Even then, that's what Scripture will say, "Every knee will bow. Every tongue will confess Jesus is Lord." What will Hepsibah say? "Hallelujah, Lord! I got only 100 degrees." He'd say, "If you'd have said 'Hallelujah' when you were living, you would have been in another place." So, remember *Revelation 20* is not talking only about the unsaved people. It is talking about all the people except overcomers.

In *Romans 14:9*,

**Romans 14:9**

***<sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.***

He's the Lord of both the dead and the living. Now, you use this term, because in *Revelation 20*, it says, "All the dead arose, small and great." He's the Lord of both the dead and the living. When the Bible uses certain terms, you have to use Scripture to interpret Scripture. And Paul is telling Timothy, the Holy Spirit through Paul is telling with Timothy about dealing with widows in the Church, because widows was a huge issue. Men kept on dying in the battles. So taking care of widows was a big issue in the Church. But rules are set how old should she be and she should have no family members and all that. But there is another thing that is said about widows. Listen to what it says.

**1 Timothy 5:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup> Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.***

Remember Anna? Simeon and Anna when Jesus was taken on the fortieth day? This is a widow like that. He says, "That's a genuine widow.")

***<sup>6</sup> But she who lives in pleasure*(Who likes the world, who comes occasionally to Church, but she loves the world and she lives in pleasure) *is dead while she lives.***

You know how God looks at people? He says, "You're a Christian. But you're dead while you're living. And I'm the judge of both the dead and the living." So, if our life is all about the world, you're dead while you are living. That's why I ask, check your heart. What is your burden about? Honestly. I don't know. Is your burden about the Kingdom and the about souls that are being lost every day? Unable to reach. Restrictions are coming more and more in the nation. They are very clear. Their agenda is very, very clear. Nothing is hidden in this country. Everything is very clear. Their big leaders are already up there. Their recordings are available with pictures saying, "Next election, supermajority, constitution has to be changed. India will be a Hindu Republic. And the constitution will be amended to make it very clear, no prime minister. No minister. No MLA. No judge. No IAS officer. Nobody can be appointed who is not a Hindu." They've said it very clearly. Are we prepared? Just stand for this God and still try to get people into the kingdom. If something like that happens, God forbid it happens, it will be worse than Pakistan's constitution. And it's not small people who are talking. These are people at the height of the leadership who are talking about Republic. Now we are not worried about it. You'll be worried about it if your entire dreams and aspirations are in the world. But if you're in the kingdom you'll say, "Lord, for a time and a season like this, You chose me, I was born." There are no accidents in your life. "If You didn't want me to go through this, I would have been born fifty years earlier. Why did You bring me now in a season like this? Because this was my destiny in Your Kingdom. I'm

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ready, Lord. I'm ready." This is what the devil meant for harm, You will turn it around for good. Through this oppression, we will win more souls for the Kingdom. What's your burden? What's your burden? Because all over North India, I hear reports. Pastors already telling their Churches, "If they ask your religion, say Hindu. It doesn't matter." When we get excited, when we get this breeze, doing snake dance and break dance in Churches and all, are you really prepared for what is coming? Are we really prepared? You're dead while you are living. Don't be dead while you're living. Be living. Count the cost. Jesus always said, "Count the cost."

*1 Corinthians 3:15.* It talks about judgment day. What does it say?

### **1 Corinthians 3:15**

***<sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.***

Imagine, your house is on fire and you are sleeping; last minute, you woke up, "Ayyo the whole house," and you have no time to get your certificates, your money, your clothes, nothing. You just ran out with what you have. That's how many will enter in Heaven. All you have was your salvation. Nothing else. All your works have burned, absolutely hard; Scripture is taking about the Judgment Day – many will come through the fire everything will be burnt. Why did they come with the salvation? Because thank God salvation is the work of another one. Foundation stone was okay That's what 3:11 will say. What did it say?

### **1 Corinthians 3:11**

***<sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. F***

Foundation stone was right. Therefore he came through; you believed, one time in your life for Jesus Christ. After that, you built it on the world. God says, "Everything gone on Judgement Day." So, God says, "Be very careful." He doesn't change his word for anybody because His Son died for this.

Remember Lot's wife? Fire separated the husband and wife. In the last minute, last second, husband and wife were separated by fire. What separated them? Only one look. Last minute was only one look. Husband look to the front; wife looked to the back, separated by fire. So, that's why, "Remember Lot's wife," Jesus said. Because you have no clue what the testing by fire is. Last minute she is there, her feet probably near that gate, she could enter it; last minute, she turned, gone. He got in; she got out. She is the case of somebody who was lost. He is the case of somebody who lost all his possessions; a type of somebody who came in just with salvation and nothing else. So, if our eyes are open to the truth of eternal judgement; imagine, if your children were told, "This final exam is your last chance," see, I taught in another country, many, many years; donkey's years ago. It was a country where education was all by the government. Only government schools and nothing else. Education was absolutely free; you get boarding; boarding is free; uniform is free; books are free; everything is free; government takes care of you; only one condition – jobs are few. So, they have a test in Class 6; they have a test in Class 8 and they have a test in Class 10. These three tests, if you don't pass, you will get only one chance. At 6, if you don't pass, all those who have failed, the government sends them for some small training jobs. At 8<sup>th</sup>, if you don't pass, they took you to some other; 10<sup>th</sup>. So, all the poor kids will be absolutely desperate knowing this is the only chance of their life time. The rich were not bothered because they knew they could go to India and still study. The poor ones, if you had seen them in the school, always late nights sitting, listening, studying; because they knew this is their only chance in their life. "If I don't pass, I am gone. My career is gone and my life is gone and everything is gone." Only one chance. And I looked up those kids and I really sympathised with them; we helped them so that they could go through the next level. And the exams were not done by the school; it was done by the government – Board Exams. Think about it; that's what God is talking about. There is an eternal judgment is coming – one chance – you will be promoted or you just pass.

God is very clear, He never lies. He is a very honest Father but He is an incredibly righteous Father. So, our eyes have to be open to the reality what eternal judgement is. Why did Jesus (don't take it so lightly). We mock the Cross sometimes. Why did He come? Why did He pay this price? Why did it all this about? So that I could go and have a good time in the world? No way. It's something much, much bigger than that. That's why the Judgement is called Eternal Judgement. So, do we know? Do we realise how God judges? Do we realise? Do we know? Now, when we talk about judgement, if your exam comes, you will get a question paper, Maths question paper; one question is out of syllabus everybody will call, "Teacher, it was out of syllabus." They don't talk about other 25 which was of the syllabus; they will always pick up the one because that is

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teacher's fault, right. So, when God is going to judge us, He is not going to tell us; He is going to tell us how He is going to judge us right? What's the point of going for an exam if you don't know your subjects? God is very clear how He is going to judge us. Judgement parameters are set in the Bible. So, it is to ours. If we are zealous about becoming something from eternity in the Kingdom; that's why, eight times, in the *Book of Revelation* God keeps on saying, "he who overcomes". How will you say in your school? "He who does well." "He who overcomes." God is using the same term – "He who overcomes."

We will look at the one parameter before we close. Maybe in another fifteen, twenty minutes. One parameter only, that itself is scary! Just one. One parameter of various judgements. If you go to your office tomorrow and your boss calls you tomorrow and says, "I need that one thing, Peter, I need that one thing. You know that? That paper? I want you to write it down and get it done. I need that. It's urgent. I am going out and will come back. I need that one thing. I need it today." And Peter says, "Okay, okay, sir," and Peter forgets. Peter does a little searching on internet and he has his coffee break and another coffee break. Then, he has his lunch break and suddenly, it's 3.30pm, the boss comes and says, "Where's my paper?" He says, "I am sorry, sorry. I will make it." Remember these one things when God says?

### Galatians 5:6

***<sup>6</sup>For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.***

Now, be very careful here because we have heard and heard and heard about faith. I am not talking about faith because Valentine's Day just crossed over last Wednesday, right? You don't know. I am very happy with you. If you don't know that day, you are blessed. Don't waste your money.

Okay, let's look at another portion about what Bible says – *1 Corinthians 13:13*. Everything only from Scripture. we put our hope and trust in Scripture.

### 1 Corinthians 13: 13

***<sup>13</sup>And now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.***

That's why more songs are about this but that is not a love; that is a counterfeit love. Because what is true also, you need to understand from the Scripture. Now, we talk about all our works. Scripture says, "Every man will give an account – his deeds, his thoughts, his intentions, his attitudes." Look at how *1 Corinthians 13* begins.

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

***<sup>13</sup>Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal*** (Prophetically gifted!) ***<sup>2</sup>And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains,*** (every mountain in my way, I ask you to be removed." Every breakthrough, you are getting, God says) ***but have not love, I am nothing*** (if you don't have love you are, on that Day, you are nothing; look at the third one, this is even more dangerous) ***<sup>3</sup>And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor*** (I have given my entire estate for feeding the poor, sold everything and given to the poor) ***and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing***

Take a look at this. Just take a look at this and see how entirely Heaven looks at life different from the way we look at; The first three is what we all; "I want this, Lord. baptize me, O Lord. I want to speak in tongues; I want to be very fluent in tongues, O Lord. I want to intercede." God said, "You got all that and you don't have love." "Lord, I want prophetic gifts and miracle gifts, all power ministry, Lord. Endow me with power ministry, Lord. When I wave my hand, half of the congregation will fall, Lord, and my Church will be full, Lord!" God says, "If you don't love your congregation, you are worth nothing." "Lord, bless me, Lord." I'm going to sacrifice and give it to all to feed the poor." God says, "If you don't love them, you are nothing." That's when, when the lawyer asked Jesus the question, "What's the Greater Commandment?" "Love God with all your heart, all your mind, all your strength and love your neighbour as yourself." That's what he asked.

Now, the problem. The problem is here. The problem is – anything that has got value in the market, there is always a fake thing available. Duplicate. As soon as the 2000 rupee note came a little before the year, within weeks, the duplicate came out, right? 50-rupee note also was new which has come. Have you ever got a duplicate? No. Who is going to make duplicate for Rs. 50? It's not worth it. 2000 rupees, there are plenty. So, anything of value, there is a counterfeit in the enemy's

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kingdom. There's counterfeit faith which is false, which is not real. Things will happen but your faith is in your faith; not in the Person of God. It's in your faith. You will not say, "I can do all things in Christ Jesus." You will say, "I can do all things." And they do a lot of things too. Counterfeit faith, counterfeit love. We don't understand what love is. Because for everybody, love is an emotion. "Hold me close." Do you think that's what Jesus is doing in Heaven and is saying, "Come, I want to hold you close"? Angels don't even have bodies to hold them. This is not what love is. Unless we look into the Word, we are all magnifying a counterfeit which the enemy has sold so well. And we also make all our decisions based on that. "Peter is very loving. Albert? He is not. Not loving at all. Peter is very loving." How did you judge them? "I remember that movie. Peter is like that man. Very loving." So, you have two things here – my love for God and my love for people are not the same. They are not judged the same way. They are absolutely judged differently. They are not the same. God is not looking at you or me. We should sing. We should praise God. But He is not looking at how all my songs to say that, "Ah! Hepsibah really loves Me. I saw today, when Pastor Sharon was leading, she was swaying. Ah! She really loves Me." That's not what God is looking at. That's not what God looks at. Let's look at what God means by love, our love for God.

### **John 14:15**

<sup>15</sup> ***"If you love Me, keep My commandments.***

Meaning – "If you don't keep My Commandments, it doesn't matter how many poems you write and songs you sing. The truth is – you don't love Me."

The next one;

### **John 14:21**

<sup>21</sup> ***He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me...***

You know what God is saying? It is very interesting, the construction. It's all the same. Jesus is speaking. First, He says,

### **John 14:15**

<sup>15</sup> ***"If you love Me, keep My commandments.***

First thing, God will give you only one thing. Adam and Eve were only told one thing. Not two things; one thing. Usually, all people, when they start, God tells you to do one thing and in every Church I preach, the one thing is – come to Church on time. That's where it begins one thing. They never do that one thing. So, what happens? He doesn't tell you a second thing. When you get the second thing and the third thing and the fourth thing, that is what this means –

### **John 14:21**

<sup>21</sup> ***He who has My commandments...***

Now, you have His commandments. He is able to tell you more and more things. "This is what I want you to do," and you are obeying. And therefore, He is able to tell you. He has the commandments.

***...And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."***

Now, leave about Judas in verse 22.

### **John 14:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> ***Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. <sup>24</sup> He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.***

Did you see that? It's got nothing to do with a feeling. The feeling part is this; it's like David. When he does not keep God's commandments, he is heartbroken and he weeps and he cries and he is not able to sleep until God restores him. That's why I tell the greatest gift God has given to a believer is the gift of repentance because we will all fail. None of us will be able to

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keep constantly all the commandments of God. God knows that. But the problem is – if it doesn't bother me at all, God says, "You don't really care for Me."

In verse 31, Jesus says about Himself,

### **John 14:31**

**<sup>31</sup> But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do...**

He says, "I have done all the things that the Father told Me. That's how the Father knows that I love Him."

In 1 John 4:16-17 connects this to the Judgment Day.

### **1 John 4:16-17**

**<sup>16</sup> And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.**

How was He in this world? "Tell Me that, I will do it. Thy will be done." As He is, so we are. On the Day of Judgment, absolutely bold. That's why, when I teach, I say, "When you are not sure about certain things in the Bible, go by the letter. There is no problem." Don't go and start searching all. Whenever there is something there in the Bible saying, "Do it," and you don't want to do it, you search everything else to find one preacher who has said, "You don't have to do it." What difference does it make? God said it. If you are wrong, if your interpretation was wrong, you can say, "Lord, I did it thinking, this is what You meant," and God would say, "It is okay, honey. That's not what I meant but at least, you obeyed Me." God is looking at that. That's what, when we, parents, when the children come, we tell the children, "Do this," and the child has done a sloppy job because he is so small, you are not going to look at it and say, "Humpf! Five years old and you don't know how to wash your plate?" That's not what we say. "You washed your plate? Good job! You did it!" But the problem is – if the Father says something and you don't do it at all and then, you come and say, "I love You so much," God says, "Hello? Who are you trying to fool?" On the Day of Judgment, Scripture says, "You can be bold." And there is something He says in 1 John 5:3,

### **1 John 5:3**

**<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.**

You know why we find all these things very difficult? The simple reason is that we don't love God. Everybody knows during Valentine's Day, every preacher in every country will talk about Jacob's love for Rachel. Why not Leah? How come nobody talks about Jacob's love for Leah? Because everybody knows he didn't love her. In the carnal way, he only loved Rachel. But how many years did he work for her? And what does Scripture say? It was like a few days. Why? Because of his love. That's what God is saying. He is saying, "If you really love Me, nothing is too far; nothing is too difficult. Those are only excuses." "Oh, Wednesday, I can't come." "Oh, I remember, honey, when you fell in love with that guy, remember? You used to travel twenty-five hours to meet him. Your phone was engaged non-stop. Now, Church has become too far and you are too tired." God says, "All these things are excuses unless they are really genuine." These are all excuses because we will do the things which we love. We will actually do the things that we love. You just check your timeline through a day and you will see – after your work or studies, whatever you are doing, if you have the freedom, are the things which you really love. And some people sleep because you love sleeping. We have to grow in This. This is not the love of man. It is not possible humanly. This is something which God gives us like faith. He gave us the measure of faith to believe; He gives us also a love when we believe. This is what 1 John 3:1 says.

### **1 John 3:1**

**<sup>1</sup> Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us...**

He gives us. All the Hindi movies, Hollywood movies, every movie, including the one which has gone viral about this Malayali girl who winked at her Valentine; this is all over internet, WhatsApp, everything – let me tell you, all of you; don't pretend. I know you will pretend but it is true. When you looked at your first boy or your first girl, your heart missed a beat,

right? Where did that come from? Did your teacher teach you that? Did the principal say that in the assembly? You see, it was already there. You never knew it. You never knew it was there. But that is something of the world. This is something of God. How did you believe? Because He gave you the measure of faith to believe in His grace. That's how you are saved. Even faith is a gift. This love also is a gift. But the things of God's Kingdom is – if you don't use it, it will remain the same. The more you use it, it grows. This is not human love because human love fails. That's why God says, "Even if your mother," the closest relationship, nurturing and protecting – the mother and the suckling baby – what does God say? "Even if your mother forsakes you, I," He says, "Every human love has a limit." God says, "My love never fails." It can never fail. And God says, "That's the love that I give you." It is about this love that God is saying that you can become perfect in it. Remember when God is talking about? Everybody loves your own children. Who doesn't love your own children? But God says, "Can you love somebody else's child like your own?" That's the problem. "Oh, I love. I sacrifice so much. I wake up early in the morning and I make the best dabba (box) for my son. Then, I wake him up and I get him ready and make him do tuition and everything. I have sacrificed." God says, "The Hindu does it; the Muslim does it. Everybody does it. There is nothing great about it." Will you do the same thing for somebody else's child? That is impossible unless God gives you His love. That is the test. Because in this world, you need to realize – that's what the whole world is – you have to love somebody. That somebody has to look like something the world has shown you. You have to be loveable. That's why people see this multibillion industry how to look good, how to dress good because they have told you, "Then only you are lovable." That's not God's love. All of us, in God's eyes, look horrible. That's why this thing about leprosy in the Bible, constantly. Leprosy was symbolized as sin. If you look at the leper, that is the one person that you walk away from. Nose is gone; eyes are gone; fingers are gone. "Lord." Jesus says, "Of course." And He puts His arms around him. Which man has ever done that? "You are not ugly in My sight. I see the worth of your soul. You are lovely. Fearfully and wonderfully made. My Father loves you." We are not able to see people that way. Because we have swallowed the lie of the world and we are spending all our money for that looks, all our money for a career in that world, forgetting to seek God, "What are Your plans? What is Your purpose? Help me to love the unlovable, Lord." And we glorify ourselves, "I love my children." God says, "So does everybody." He says, "When you love your enemies, that's when your love is perfect like the Father's love." That is when it is perfect.

The Cross has to do a work in us, honestly, so that we love the One who hung on the Cross. Otherwise, all these songs are worth nothing. He died on the Cross for me; not for the world. For me. It is very personal. And then, from Stephen down to the last martyr, died for me to reach the Gospel to me. These are people who loved us without seeing us to see that we could be partakers of that Kingdom. They didn't come and talk about good health, good looks and a lot of money, houses and cars; they laid their lives on line so that people could enter into this Kingdom and stand with boldness on the Day of Judgment. How did we invert this Gospel? How did we change this Gospel? It's no longer the Gospel of the love of God; it's the Gospel of the love of the world and we love them. We love those preachers because they don't irritate us at all. It's like knife going through butter. How smoothly they talk and never ever mention about the actual love of God which caused Him His Son. And shouldn't there be a response? Think about it, honestly, in your own life. Like, that happened in the Florida shooting. That crazy kid, he went with his gun, got in and shot so many people. And one of the persons who died was a football coach. He died trying to save his students. Now, those students who survived because he took the bullets, what would they think about him all their lives? If it is a normal kid, he will have a picture of his father and mother and he will have a picture of the coach. All through his life, people will ask him, "Who is that man?" and he will say, "That is the man that died for me. That's why I'm here." "Why is this man? Who is he? Is he related?" He said, "More than that." Why? "He died. Therefore, I live." Right before us, last week. This is somebody who died for us so that we would live eternally and He didn't have to die. What is our response? The question is: what is the response of the Church? That's what God is saying. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." It's not emotions. Emotions are secondary; it is an act of obedience, incredible act of obedience. And God says, "Grow in it." You have to grow in all of this.

When it comes to obeying God, it has three sides – the first side, David talks about in *Psalms 119*.

### **Psalms 119:60**

<sup>60</sup> ***I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.***

And it's got nothing to do with the commandments; it is got to do with the Person who gave the commandments. It's got to do with a Person. You will never come to Church on time. All these rules are irrelevant because it is connected with a Church for you; it is not connected with Jesus. If it is connected with Jesus, everything; my heart was pounding, thinking

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that I wouldn't make it on time today because there was a little diversion in the morning and then, Sameer reached two minutes before and I ran in. It's not because I'm the Pastor. Even fifteen to twenty years ago, when I used to go for the 7:30 Church Service at AGs, it was the same thing because if you came at 7:25, you had to sit outside; you cannot go in. And you rushed because the last thing you want is to sit outside because this is the high point of the day to come into the house of God and hear that man, Stubbs, speak. I want to hear the Word of God. It didn't matter if I had small kids. I got them ready, put them on the scooter and rushed because it was about a Person. I don't want to miss what God has to tell me today. It's simply got to do with the Person and we need to change hastily.

**<sup>60</sup> I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.**

This is about the things of God. Whether it is the repenting of wrong or doing something which He has told you, there is a haste because you love Him and you love the Person. He wants that. That's why I told last Sunday before Pastor Vijay preached, what makes our religion different from every? If you want to use the term 'religion'. Hinduism has commands. Many commands, if you read Gita, if you read Rig Veda, different commands are there in Hinduism. Islam has many commands including the five pillars. Buddhism has. Jainism has. All of them have commands but we have something more than the commands. What does *Hebrews 3* say and throughout the Bible, what does it say?

### **Hebrews 3:15**

**<sup>15</sup> while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."**

Many of you are hearing His voice through my voice today. That's why our religion is different because we serve a living God. He, not only gives us commands written in this Book, He also speaks to us, to our spirit man, through the voice of man or other voices; He will speak to us and say, "When I speak to you, don't harden. Be haste. Do it fast. Don't harden your heart." Because when we delay, a hardening takes place. So, we grow in obeying God faster and faster and God will speak more and more to You.

I was telling the Pastors – Moses gave the law. The Commandments all came through Moses. But five hundred years before Moses gave the law, in Genesis 26, God tells Isaac, "Your father knew all of it. The whole law, I gave it to your father." Why did God give it to him? Because that man learnt finally to listen to God's voice and obey Him. God says, "You take it. Another day will come when I will give it to a nation but I realize – you like obeying Me. Take My whole law. This is for you." That's what the whole New Covenant is. He says, "I will write My laws in your heart. I will speak to you and you will know what you need to do. Over and above this, I will direct your life with My voice because I'm a living God." Do it in haste.

Second thing – when you obey Him, obey Him wholly, completely. Don't do it partially. We know it very well but once again;

### **1 Samuel 15:2, 7-11**

**<sup>2</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. <sup>3</sup> Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, (command was very clear,) and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'**

Nothing should be left. But what happens?

**<sup>7</sup> And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. <sup>8</sup> He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. <sup>9</sup> But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. <sup>10</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, <sup>11</sup> "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king,**

God says, "He didn't obey Me." That's what many of us do. God tells us very clearly; I'm just giving you a simple example so that you can understand this. "You are My child, whether man or woman. Some of the stuff in your closet doesn't look good on you because you are My child and My Son lives in you. So, can you get rid of it." "Okay. Ah, this, anyway, I was planning to give it away. Ahh! This, I bought only last week. And this, I never liked it anyway. This one? No, I'll keep it for one more month, wear it a few times and very soon, I will give it away." That's how we make our decisions. God says, "Utterly

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destroy,” and we will say, “Yes, I did. God says, “No, you didn’t” Apply it to different areas of your life and then, you will realize.

The same thing in the New Covenant. Old and New, it is the same thing. The first people who were judged in the Church,

### Acts 5:1-

**<sup>1</sup> But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. <sup>2</sup> And he kept back part of the proceeds...**

He didn’t have to do anything. He came to the Apostles and said (this is all outside service), “Sir, I want to sell my land. I want to give everything for the Church.” Peter said, “As the Lord leads.” He went, sold it for fifty thousand; twenty thousand, he kept at home and he brought thirty thousand and said, “Here is everything.” Did you obey God? Did he have to make that choice? No, you pretend something but you actually don’t obey God fully.

**<sup>2</sup> And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it...**

So, perfect unity in that family. One united family.

***...and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet.* (What does Peter say?) <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? <sup>4</sup> While it remained, was it not your own?**

Why do you make these false vows before God and before people to sound good, “I want to give everything to the Church”? You forgot God is the God who sees you in secret. And they both die. So, God hasn’t changed in the Old or in the New. Thank God we don’t die now because of His mercy. Are you seeing? God says, “Obey Me in haste. If you really love Me, your speed will increase. You will be quick. If you love Me, as your love increases, you will always look – did I leave out any detail?”

I will give you a simple example. Don’t take it and start applying it tomorrow. This is only so that you understand. If you love the Lord, you will obey His command about giving that you need to give to the Kingdom. But if you really love the Lord and you really love Him as a Person, what you will do is that you won’t put those notes with cello tapes stuck into the offertory. When you take the money which you want to give to the Lord, you will always separate the notes, take the cleanest and the newest and say, “Lord, You deserve this.” Nobody knows. Nobody sees. But there is Somebody who says, “Listen to that child of Mine. That kid really loves Me.” I will not know. Nobody will know. People do stuff like that, a lot of things which are... I’m not here, of course, but when people donate things to Churches, what they cannot use anymore in their house, which a carpenter has to come and fix is given to the Lord. That’s what in *Haggai*, finally, God says, “You call Me ‘God’. You call Me ‘Father’. Where is My honor?” He says, “Go to your governor and ask him whether he will accept the things which you have brought to My temple.” I could say, sometimes, let us go to the bank and ask about some of the notes you put in whether it is acceptable. I wouldn’t know but I’m telling you, if that is how you do stuff, God is saying, “Was it not your own? You didn’t have to put it. Did I ask you to put it? You didn’t have to put it. Even if you don’t put an offering, you know that man always says – you don’t have to put. He’s not going to say anything; I’m not going to say anything. Why did you pretend?” Suddenly, we realize – this test of love is a serious thing. It’s a very serious thing and God says, “Slowly, learn and change.” “Lord, I’m sorry but I want to change because I really love You and I want to change in those areas. I want to make haste. I want to be complete in my obedience.” That’s all not enough. In *Deuteronomy 28:45-47*,

### Deuteronomy 28:45, 47

**<sup>45</sup> “Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.**

**<sup>47</sup> “Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,**

The most miserable people who sometimes meet are supposedly in full-time ministry. So miserable. Like Pastor Sharon was saying – if you are watching a cricket match or a soccer match, even before a TV, you have to see people’s excitement – believers. I’m not talking about unbelievers. Leave the unbeliever. Our job is never to talk about them. Our job is to talk about what happens here. You have to see their excitement and you have to see the excitement on people when they come

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to Church. Here, I trained you well for ten years but in other places, people will start giving you signals. In some places, I'm very clear. I'm blunt and I tell them, "Put a clock here and there so that you can turn and your neck won't hurt. I'm not going to stop because your Pastor gave me this much time and I want to preach because I came here to preach; not to entertain you." We look, "How many more minutes?" When the cricket match is going on, nobody says, "Only ten more overs left. India won't win! Lord, please, Lord! Sachin!" I also did this once upon a time. "Lord, Sachin, Lord. Let him not get out!" Every time I prayed for Sachin, he got out. Then, I realized, this is not going to work with God. So, every time Sachin came, I learnt my lesson and said, "Lord, let Your will be done." We went through this process but I'm saying – now that we know, now that we are growing, change your affections towards this one Person who really loved us, loves us and will love us for all eternity. Nobody. That is beauty. When the Bible is talking about – He is the fairest of ten thousand to my soul, it is not talking about His looks; it is talking about His affection for us. That's what He is talking about. Joyfully. That's why He loves a cheerful giver. Whatever you give to the Lord, do it cheerfully. Sing a song. Don't be grumpy.

Do you remember when the old man, uncle Abraham, the father of believers started his journey? Terah took his son, Abraham and grandson, Lot, son of Haran. They all and they went out from the Ur of the Chaldeans to the land of Canaan. They came to Haran and dwelt there. He didn't go to Canaan. "Did you obey?" "Yes." But his foot is dragging. Why? "Daddy is saying 'I don't want to go any further. I want to stay at Haran. I'm not going any further'." So, suddenly, he is also slowing down because he was told very clearly, "Leave your father, leave your household, leave your country. Go." He got stuck over there. This was his beginning. We don't know how old he was over there. When he enters after his father's death, he was seventy-five. So, maybe, he is sixty, sixty-five. We don't know. Now, fast forward now.

### **Genesis 22:3**

***<sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son;***

When is this happening? Now, he is an old man. The previous night, the Lord told him, "I will show you the place. Make a three-day journey, take your son, your only son and offer him as a sacrifice." Did you see the speed? Did you see how his speed has grown? The man who dragged his feet, unwilling to leave his living father is now rushing to sacrifice his only son because he has learnt to obey the Lord in haste. Do you see the difference? Look at verse 9-10,

### **Genesis 22:9-10**

***<sup>9</sup>Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. <sup>10</sup>And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.***

Did he obey Him fully? "Now, let me do something – I will tie the rope a little lightly so that he will break and then, I can tell God, 'I couldn't do anything. The boy ran away'." God doesn't get nervous but He must have got nervous because this man lifted the knife. We wouldn't do that. We will try to do one small cut. Nothing. So, not only did he make haste, he is obeying wholly. He not only obeyed Him in haste, he not only obeyed Him wholly but look at verse 5, when he is going up, look at what he said.

### **Genesis 22:5**

***<sup>5</sup>And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship..."***

The first time the word 'worship' is used in the Bible. That's when we become true worshippers. Jesus told the Samaritan woman, "You got your worship wrong, honey. It's not about a place. It is about how you do it." God is seeking for worshippers who will worship Him in truth and in spirit and here is this man who has obeyed the Lord hastily, given up completely, lifted his knife up, God says, "You are a true worshipper, Abraham." You know what James would say in *James 2*?

### **James 2:21-22**

***<sup>21</sup>Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup>Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?***

God had told him, "Be perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect." When did Abraham become perfect? When he lifted the knife, bound his son, God says, "This is what I wanted for each one of you. You are the father of believers." When did he begin this journey? When he heard the voice of the Lord in the Ur of the Chaldeans, started his journey, God said, "You are righteous." Years later, when he bound his son and lifted his knife, he said, "Your faith is perfected now." That is the journey we are taking – in haste, completely, cheerfully. That's a worshipper and worship has got nothing to do with songs. It's got nothing to do with songs. Seventy-nine times, in the New Testament, the word 'worship' is used. Hundred and fifty-five times in the Old Testament, the word 'worship' is used. Only once, it is connected with a song. Never in any of the other context, does it talk about a song but worship is talking about a lifestyle. When you have given yourself in haste wholly and completely and joyfully to the Lord, God says, "You are a worshipper." The minute you add 'worship' to something that is happening over here for the first half an hour, you have restricted God to half an hour a week in your life. God says, "That is not a true worshipper. A true worshipper is the one who is constantly surrendering his life for My glory and he does it in haste, he does it completely and joyfully and such, I am seeking." On that day, God says, "You stand before Me on that, you can be unashamed, you can be joyful, you can be incredibly bold because all your works will come through because you understood what love was. You understood what this was all about." But start the journey. We don't reach there. Abraham did not reach there one day. My only thing is that – be on that journey and ask Him every day because that faith, we don't have; that love, we don't have but He gives and He gives. We ask. He gives. That's why the Spirit has been given. Come, let's stand. He's a good God. He's an awesome God. Keep this in mind. All of us will have to face that day. We cannot prepare for death. Nobody knows when that day or that hour will come but we can prepare for judgment each day. We can prepare because the Bible says you can. Scripture says, "You do not have to be ashamed at all at His Coming." But let our confidence be real, based on the truth of God's Word and the conformation the Holy Spirit gives us in our spirit. Let it not be mere speculations. We need to be very sure that what I believe is true and John says, "You can." Peter says, "You can." He says, "If you do all these things," he says, "You will receive a rich welcome into the Kingdom of God." Because God will never ask you or me to do impossible things. Everything He says is possible if we believe. That's why He says, "All things are possible to him or her who believes." How much we believe for things in this world? How much more we should believe for the things of the Kingdom and for the King?

### **Closing Prayer:**

*Father, this morning, we just stand before Thee. We just want to say, Father, we have always come short of our faith walk and our love walk. Your Word says 'neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters in Christ Jesus. Only one thing counts – that is faith working through love'. And You have said in Your Word, "The greatest of this is love." You also say that if we love You, we will keep Your commands. And I pray, Spirit of God, that You will speak to each one standing here today. Each one; that one command they need to keep. That one thing they have consistently disobeyed. That one thing. You are able to bring to their remembrance that one thing that it will not go from their mind this whole day until they have dealt it with God in the prayer closet. That one thing. Let them not wander like the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness anymore, Lord. Let there be a clear direction in their walk. Reveal to us that one thing that displeases you; that one thing we need to do so that we can hear the next thing and the next thing; and the day will come in our life that came in John's life in the Island of Patmos – he heard the voice of the Lord like a trumpet in his hear, O God, because You are a God who speaks. There are enough idols in this country, Lord. We will not make You one. You are a living God who speaks to His people – words of comfort, words of concern, words of rebuke but You speak. I pray, Lord, no one in this house will go through life without hearing Your voice and obeying Your commands. I commit the Church into Thy hands and this coming week into Thy hands. I pray, Lord, You will go before us. Go before each one. Our paths are crooked. There are mountains on the way, deep valleys on the way but You have promised, Lord, You will make our crooked path straight. You will bring down those mountains and fill that valley, O Lord. Not for us to walk in comfort but as walk, the Prince of Glory will come into that pathway, Lord. And when we go to our schools, our colleges, our offices and our homes, O Father, Your presence and Your glory will accompany us, O God. Help us to believe. Help us to obey. Help us to experience more of Your life this week, Lord. I speak healing into every sick body. I speak healing and deliverance into every troubled mind and I speak wholeness, Lord. Be made whole in Jesus' Name; that we may truly worship You in spirit and truth, O God. Thank You, Lord. We just bless Your Holy Name. We lift up holy hands and we just bless Your Holy Name. We bless Your Holy Name, O Lord. Thank You, Father. Thank You. We praise You. We worship You. We glorify You, Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

### **Benediction:**

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us, Amen.*