

1 Thessalonians 4:15–18

15. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
16. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
17. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
18. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The grand experience of being raptured at the time of Christ's coming is obviously a major aspect of a believer's expectation of future events. The transformation that will take place as believers exchange our present bodies for bodies suited for heaven and leave our present abode on earth for the glories of being in the presence of Christ in heaven is completely beyond description.

John F. Walvoord: End Times, Understanding Today's World Events in Bible Prophecy

Unfortunately many believers know little about the Rapture, or else are not living in anticipation of its fulfilment. If a person is walking in fellowship with Christ, experiencing His wonderful love and fellowship, it is most natural for that believer to anticipate His coming as a wonderful, eagerly welcomed event. Failure to appreciate the Rapture is not simply a theological problem; it is also a spiritual problem. It points to something lacking in a Christian's walk with the Lord.

John F. Walvoord: End Times, Understanding Today's World Events in Bible Prophecy

2 Corinthians 5:10 (Amplified Bible)

For we must all appear and be revealed as we are before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive [his pay] according to what he has done in the body, whether good or evil [considering what his purpose and motive have been, and what he has achieved, been busy with, and given himself and his attention to accomplishing].

1 Corinthians 3:10–13

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.

1 Corinthians 3:13 (Amplified Bible)

The work of each [one] will become [plainly, openly] known (shown for what it is); for the day [of Christ] will disclose and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will **test and critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done.**

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 (Amplified Bible)

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

James 2:14-24

14. What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?
15. If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,
16. and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?
17. So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
18. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
19. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

20. Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?
21. Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?
22. You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;
23. and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” —and he was called a friend of God.
24. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (Amplified Bible)

For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing *and* producing *and* achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!]

Many Christians have been lulled into a false state of complacency regarding this judgment (the Judgment Seat of Christ). If Christians truly understood the eternal significance of “good works,” they would radically alter their lifestyle.

Tim La Haye, Bible Prophecy Handbook

1 Corinthians 3:15 (Amplified Bible)

But if any person's work is burned up [under the test], **he will suffer the loss [of it all, losing his reward]**, though he himself will be saved, but only as [one who has passed] through fire.

- * This life is training for the next
- * We are to use the resources of this life to store up treasures in heaven
- * We are to be learning the rules of the kingdom and running the race to win the prize Christ has promised to His faithful servants

**When Jesus calls your name, will you hear Him say,
'Well done, good and faithful servant'?**