

**To the Servants of the Most High God at Topeka, Kansas,  
Sunday, November 30, 2025**

**Hold That Fast Which Thou Hast, That No Man Take Thy Crown Part 3**

I beseech you to thoughtfully consider why you should pursue the Godly and spiritual labor now and not delay and to not let anyone take your crown. Consider these reasons, not by the sheer number of them, but by the weight and importance of them.

Adapted from *Saints Everlasting Rest*, Richard Baxter

**17. Consider, in the end all men will applaud the way of truth and life**

There is not a man that ever was, or is, or shall be, but shall one day justify the diligence of the saints and give his verdict in the approbation of their wisdom. Those that now passionately judge us, will shortly be, like every man, of another mind. If they come to heaven, their mind must be changed before they come there. If they go to hell, their judgment will then be altered. If you could speak with every soul that suffereth those torments, and ask their judgments, whether it be possible to be too diligent and serious in seeking salvation, you may easily conjecture what answer they would return. The most bitter derider or persecutor of godliness, even those that will venture their lives to overthrow it will shortly eat their own words and wish a thousand times that they had been the most holy, diligent, Christians on earth. As Christ told in Luke 16 the rich man in hell only had 2 concerns, easing his pain and warning his brethren. Luke 16; 24 *And he (the rich man) cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them,*

*lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.* Believe the testimony and Word of Christ (He IS THE WORD) for He is right and true. His sayings can be completely relied upon as pure words of life.

### **18. At Death, God's Elect Will Say, "I Wish I Had Done More for the Lord"**

They that have been the most serious Christians, when they come to die, will exceedingly lament their negligence. Those that have wholly addicted themselves to the work of God, and have made it the main business of their lives, and have slighted the world and mortified the flesh, and have been the wonders of the world for their heavenly conversations, yet when conscience is let loose upon them, and the fear of God rests upon them as they prepare to enter eternity, their failings and sins will disquiet them. One of our loved ones said near death "I wish I had done more for the Lord." When facing death, if you have any fear of God, you will say the same. There will be no hiding from God then, no contemplation that death will be some years off. The reality of the situation will be clear and stark. There will be nowhere to run and nowhere to hide.

What terrors do the souls of men undergo, who are generally admired for their godliness and innocence; even those that are hated and derided by the world for being so strict, and are thought to be almost beside themselves (*Ac 26:24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.*) for their extraordinary diligence, yet commonly when they lie a dying, do wish, O that they had been a thousand times more holy, more heavenly, more laborious for their souls! What a case then the negligent world will be in, when their consciences are awakened, when they lie dying, and look behind them upon a lazy, negligent life, and look before them upon a severe and terrible judgment; what an esteem will they have of a holy life! Do more now, while you have time!

## 19. Heaven Shall Not Be Attained on Easier Terms

God hath resolved that heaven shall NOT be had on easier terms. Do you think that the God who created YOU can lower the standard to God's heaven and His everlasting rest? As much as we moan and complain, that is not our right.

*Ge 18:25 ... Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? Ro 9:21 Hath not the Potter power over the clay... Php 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for His sake;*

Rest must always follow labor. *Mat. 6:33 They must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you. Php 1:28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake. You are not going to obtain everlasting life easily or by mistake. **Mt 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Lu 13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.***

Some think that it is good to be holy, but yet not of such absolute necessity but that a man may be saved without it; but God hath determined on the contrary, that without it, no man shall see His face. *Heb. 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.* Children, that word wanting means lacking.

Obtaining God's everlasting rest comes from the Father and it is serious business. If you are not serious, you are not a true and faithful Christian. As actors upon a stage, who have all the skill at their weapons, and do eminently and industriously act their parts, but do not seriously intend the death of each other, do differ from soldiers or combatants, who fight with all they possess for their lives, likewise do hypocrites differ from serious Christians. God has resolved, that if you will have your

ease here, you shall have none hereafter. So is it not wisdom then to bestir ourselves with all that God has loaned us? We must enthusiastically work and suffer our evil things now, looking to the promise that our God who works in us to this good work, will, in the next life give us our good things and that we will be comforted in heaven. (Luke 16:25).

## **20. God is Serious in His Judgments**

Don't believe the common and trite lie that Satan and his messengers promote that "God loves everyone." Beloved, it is a trap! It is a trap of the mind for the weak, frivolous, and lustful minded man. We, like John the Baptist, say:

*Mat. 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore, every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ... 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*

Is not God serious in His judgments? Does not God have the right as the Creator to promise and warn the rebellious and make good on His judgments against them? God is serious in His promises to the Elect. Will He not fully perform what He was promised to the disobedient? He will, because it is impossible for Him to lie (Heb. 6:18). Likewise, He is serious in His threatening's to His enemies. *Duet 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations; 10 And repayeth them that hate Him to their face, to destroy them: He will not be slack to him that hateth Him, He will repay him to His face.*



Was not God in good earnest when he drowned the whole antediluvian world? Did he not follow through on His complete destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? And very shortly will He lay hold on His enemies, man by man, and make them know that he is in good earnest: especially when it comes to *the great and the terrible day of the LORD* (Joel 2:31). Knowing this, is it time, then, for us to dally with God? You oppose yourself in that foolishness!

## **21. Christ is Serious in His Redemption**

This generation will have you believe that Christ and heaven can be attained as a trifle. Was not Christ serious in purchasing our redemption? He was serious in teaching, when he neglected his meat and drink (John 4:32.) He was serious in praying, when he continued all night at it (Luke 6:12). He was serious when He sweat great drops of blood (Luke 22:44). He was serious in suffering, when he fasted forty days, was tempted, betrayed, spit on, buffeted, crowned with thorns and was crucified, pierced, and died. There was no jesting in all this, and should not we be serious in seeking God? This is time for sobriety (sober, sober, sober – Titus 2).

## **22. The Ministers of Christ are Serious in their Instructions**

The ministers of Christ are serious in instructing and exhorting you, and why should not you be as serious in hearing and heeding their instructions? They are serious in

study; serious in prayer; serious in persuading your souls to the obedience of Christ; they beg of God, they beg of you, they hope, they wait, they long more for the conversion and salvation of your souls, than they do for any worldly good. 2 Tim 4:1 *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*

Surely the servant of God is bound to be as watchful for the welfare of another, as he is of himself.

### **23. The Stakes are Eternally High**

We often hear in this life that the “stakes” in some a thing are “incredibly high” (i.e., a poker game, a stock market investment, a sporting event, etc.). No, it’s not. The stakes in those endeavors are child’s play. They are nothing, absolutely nothing compared to the outcome of your immortal, never dying soul. Mt 16:26 *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Calvin: *Christ reminds them that the soul of man was not created merely to enjoy the world for a few days, but to obtain at length its immortality in heaven. What carelessness and what brutal stupidity is this, that men are so strongly attached to the world, and so much occupied with its affairs, as not to consider why they were born, and that God gave them an immortal soul, in order that, when the course of the earthly life was finished, they might live eternally in heaven (or hell)! And, indeed, it is universally acknowledged, that the soul is of higher value than all the riches and enjoyments of the world; but yet men are so blinded by carnal views, that they knowingly and willfully abandon their souls to destruction. That the world may not*

*fascinate us by its allurements, let us remember the surpassing worth of our soul; for if this be seriously considered, it will easily dispel the vain imaginations of earthly happiness.*

There is no jesting in heaven, nor in hell. The saints have real happiness, and the damned real misery. The saints are serious and high in their joy and praise, and the damned are serious and deep in their sorrow, cursing and torment. There are no remiss or sleepy praises in heaven, nor any remiss or sleepy lamentations in hell; all men there are in good earnest, and should we not then be serious now?

At this late hour, do we dare go on in a common careless course, against the plain evidence of reason and commands of God, and against the light that God has given us and pressed upon our own consciences, seeing the time is short?

Dare we live loosely or slothfully, and sin boldly, or pray as seldom and as coldly as we have done in our past, walking in darkness?

Dare we now offer half-hearted service to God or do we gird up the loins of our mind, and to set ourselves wholly about the work of our salvation; and to do it with all our strength and might and cast off every weight the sin that does so easily beset us; and run with patience and diligence the race that is set before us? (1 Pet. 1:13; Heb. 12:1, 2.)

Beloved, I promise you, the thoughts of these things will shortly be serious thoughts with yourself, when you come to death or judgment. O what deep heart-piercing thoughts will you have of eternity! Do not underestimate what is actually at stake.

## **24. If the Dead Could Speak**

Contemplate if one of your acquaintance and companions in sin should come from the dead, and tell you, that he suffered the torments of hell for those sins that you are guilty of, and for neglecting those duties which you neglect, and for living such a careless, worldly, ungodly life, as you have lived, and should therefore advise you to take another course. If you should meet such a one in your chamber when you are going to bed, and he should say to you, 'Oh, take heed of this carnal, unholy life, set

yourself to seek the Lord with all your might; neglect not your soul; prepare for eternity, that you come not to the place of torment that I am in; how would this affect you and what manner of person would you be afterwards? This can never happen, but it is what those in hell contemplate.

*Luke 16: 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

How would you react if you attended a funeral and in the middle of it, the corpse suddenly rose up and with a terrible voice cried out "I am accused at the just judgment of God!"

*2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.*

## **25. Your Last Day to Live**

If you knew that this was the last day you had to live in the world how would you live it? Would you become laser focused on the eternal things of God to the exclusion of all others?

This verse is in one of the main chapters where our Lord Jesus, the Christ answers the question what shall be the sign of thy coming? Lu 21:34 *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare (It's a Trap!) shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

Well, think about it now, because you are not far off, by any measure from this being your last day to live. It is just around the corner. James 4:13 *Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

The thief on the cross became crystal clear on what was important to him at his death. Luke 23:39 *And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

If you knew for sure, when you go to bed, that you should never rise again, would not your thoughts of another life be more serious that night? If you knew when you were praying, that you should never pray again, would you not be more earnest and importunate in that prayer? Or if you knew when you are preaching, or hearing, or exhorting your sinful acquaintance, that this were the last opportunity you should have, would you not attend it more closely than you usually? Don't squander your opportunity to contemplate it now! And, remember, when you die, you take nothing with you – not one THING. Job 1:21 *Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.* If you spend all of your time in this life striving for THINGS, you will be bankrupt in the next life. It's a trap. Lu 12:15 *And he said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.***

## **26. The Earth and All It's Works Will Shortly be Dissolved**

Ps 75:3 *The earth and all the inhabitants thereof are dissolved...*

Isaiah 24: 19 *The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. 20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. 21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.*

2 Pet. 3:10 *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 ¶ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

We are now seeing the general dissolution of the world, and all the pomp and glory of it being consumed to ashes: but, if you saw all on a fire about you, sumptuous buildings, cities, kingdoms, land, water, earth, heaven, all flaming about your ears: if you could see all the work that men labored for, and sold their souls for, gone; their friends gone; the place of your former abode gone; the history ended, and all come down; what would such a sight as this persuade you to do? What manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness. We should clearly consider and conclude that holiness and godliness are the only things in this life that translate to the next. And that Christ, our all in all is the only interest we have. Ps 73:25 *Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.* 2 Cor. 4:18 *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

I love you all. Amen.