

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

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THE CHARACTER OF THE SAINTS

Aside from the experience of Jesus Christ, the universe has never seen the full demonstration of the power of the gospel. Many men have overcome in some areas, but in others they have failed. By the promise of God, the assurance has been given that full victory over sin is possible, but the universe has yet to see it demonstrated. In His life, Jesus made it a visible reality, but it had yet to be proved that there is a power in the gospel to take men who have been the captives of Satan, and restore in them the image of God, making them safe to return to the heavenly family.

1. What is declared made by the first angel of Revelation 14?

Revelation 14:6-7

Note: "The hour of His judgement is come". This does not mean that it is God's judgment just because He is presiding. In speaking of a trial, we never say that it is the judge's trial, but rather, it is the

trial of the person who is being investigated, or tried. In this case, it is God who is on trial before the universe, in the person of His people.

2. Who is seeking vindication in this trial?

Romans 3:4 _____

Note: It was God's character and God's government (law) that were called into question by Satan in the beginning. It is in the judgment that God's character is vindicated by the investigation of the lives of His followers. If, by their lives, they have shown that they love God and, His law is sacred to them and is their chosen way of life, the universe will see the beautiful character of God in them. Such character will prove that God is fair, and His law just (Ezekiel 36:23; 2Thes.1:10; Rom.7:12). Conversely, those who have, by their lives, shown a contempt for God's law and counted His sacrifice of love as nothing, will display the character of their father, Satan (John 8:44). They will prove the destructiveness of the lies of the destroyer of souls.

3. Who stands by to accuse the followers of Christ?

Revelation 12:10; Zechariah 3:1 _____

Note: Satan has a very personal interest in the failure of each individual, because every one who does not believe in the power of God to keep them from sin, is used by Satan to support his argument that the law of God is unworkable. But God's faithful people are a witness to the falsehood of his claims (1John 5:10; Acts.5:32; Rom.8:3,4).

4. From what will the evidence be taken?

Daniel 7:10 _____

Note: In heaven there are records kept of all that takes place on earth. In these records, or books, are transcripts of all that we say or do; even our thoughts and motives are recorded (See Eccl.12:14; Malachi 3:16; Matthew 12:36-37; Psalm 56:8).

5. Where will the names of those who are saved be recorded?

Revelation 21:27 _____

6. If, after embracing the truth, we turn away from it, what happens to the record of our name in the "book of life"?

Exodus 32:33; Revelation 3:5 _____

Note: In every trial there are two phases. There is first of all the investigation of the evidence, or investigative judgment, to determine guilt or innocence. After this, there is the executive judgment, or the carrying out of the results of the findings. If the investigation reveals a forsaking of repentance and a return to sin, the name of that soul is *removed* from the "book of life." The judgment, which began in 1844, is the investigative phase, examining every soul who has named the name of Christ (1Pet.4:17; Eze.9:4-6). The wicked are advised of the judgement concerning themselves after the 1000 years (Rev.20:5a,12).

7. What happens to the sins that have been confessed and forgiven?

Acts 3:19 _____

8. What is essential on our part for the forgiveness of sins?

1John 1:9 _____

9. What is God's response to those who have known Him and profess to be His people, but have turned again to their former sins?

2Peter 2:20,21 compare Ezekiel 18:24 _____

Note: It is not just the forgiveness of sins that removes the condemnation from the sinner, but the cleansing from unrighteousness which results in a changed way of life (See Romans 8:1; 2Cor.5:17). There is no promise of freedom from guilt to those who continue to follow the leading of the carnal mind after they have been introduced to the Gospel of Christ (Gal.2:18; Exodus 34:6,7).

10. According to the Scriptures, how many classes of people does God recognise? Also name those classes.

2Corinthians 5:10; John 5:28,29 _____

Note: In the judgment there is no middle ground. The person has either, by his disobedience and disregard of God's law, cast his

influence and support with Satan in his claims against God and His government, or he has submitted himself to the cleansing, purifying power of the Gospel of Jesus and become justified through the obedience of faith (Romans 2:13; 16:26; 1Peter 1:22,23).

11. Once the judgment in the heavenly sanctuary is completed, what is the possibility of the righteous or the wicked changing their status?

Revelation 22:11-12

Note: There are two conditions that will seal a man for eternity: death, and the close of probation. Probation closed, either by persistent rejection of the work of the holy Spirit upon the heart, or when Jesus finishes His ministration before the mercy seat and no longer pleads His blood for the life of the sinner. At this time the character of each man is forever sealed, he that is righteous will be righteous still, and he that is filthy will be filthy still. A precedent for the close of probation is seen in the closing of the door on Noah's ark (Gen.7:16).

12. At the close of the judgment, what does Jesus receive?

Daniel 7:13,14

Note: When Christ finishes His work as our great High Priest, He will lay aside His priestly robes and don the garments of vengeance. He will then return to this earth to claim His faithful followers, the subjects of His eternal kingdom (Revelation 19:11-16).

The investigative judgment, and the work of cleansing the heavenly Sanctuary of the sins of God's professed people, began in 1844. When will it be finally cleansed and Jesus return? *It is not possible for the Sanctuary to be cleansed and a full end made of sin, until His people have allowed Him to make a full end of the sin in their lives.* For Him to cease His priestly ministry before this work is completed in His saints, would be to lose them, for there can be no atonement for sin when there is no Priest to offer that atonement. Will God's people ever reach that condition where every sin has been removed from their lives? God has said that he will shorten the work in righteousness, and it will be done (Rom. 9:28).