

MARRYING RIGHT

Socrates once said, “By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you’ll be happy. If you get a bad one, then you can become a philosopher.”

Many see a successful marriage dependent on finding the right spouse. Most couples will name the other person as the root of all their marital problems. “If he would just be more communicative we would have a much better marriage”, or “If she would not nag so much, we would be much happier”. However, marriage is not about finding the right person. It is about being the right person. While it is important to find someone who is compatible, has similar life goals, moral standards, and spiritual priorities, a successful marriage begins when each is focused on being the best spouse they can be rather than wanting their husband or wife to be what you hoped.

Many spouses bemoan the fact that they are not happy in their marriage because their partner does not show them affection, but it must be asked how much affection they have shown their spouse. Some complain that their spouse does not communicate but how much have they communicated with their spouse or, have they made it difficult to communicate by yelling or shouting at their spouse? When one is not happy with the behavior of their spouse, it is time to honestly assess their own behavior and consider whether or not their spouse is happy with them.

The happiest of all marriages is when both husband and wife act not out of “*selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind esteem the other better than himself*” (Phil. 2.4). Each one ought to start out the day making a commitment to their spouse to be thoughtful, to be considerate, putting their wants and needs ahead of their own. Even if the same commitment is not made by their spouse, one making that kind of commitment will almost automatically result in a noticeable change in the other.

God established marriage from the beginning (Gen. 2.21-24). When both husband and wife live by the principles of selflessness that God demands in a marriage, there can be nothing but success. Hard times may come, but with love, they can always be overcome.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
2424 McCARRAN ST.
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89031
(702) 642-3141

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com
Facebook: Northside Church of Christ Las Vegas

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

February 4, 2024

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

Four times in the Bible, reference is made to a new heaven and a new earth (Isa. 65.17; 66.22; 2 Pet. 3.13; Rev. 21.1). In every occurrence, it is describing a new order. Four times God promised that there would be a new order, that is, a new way of existing. In the two passages in Isaiah, it refers historically to the restoration and return of Israel from Babylonian captivity. However, in the New Testament, it refers to our new life in heaven.

In 2 Peter 3.13, we learn that only the righteous will be in heaven. In Revelation 21.1, we read that these righteous are blessed for the privilege of being in the presence of God. John then explains, “*for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*” You do not read that this earth and these heavens are going to regenerate, and there is going to be a fresh new life where the righteous will live on this new regenerated earth for eternity. This new heaven and new earth is figurative to say that there is a new place where we will live in another dimension outside of these heavens and this earth. This heaven and earth will be no more. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. At the end, God will destroy the heavens and the earth, and we will live in a different plane of existence. The righteous will live for eternity with God in heaven (1 Thess. 4.17).
CLP

THERE IS A GREAT DAY COMING

MATTHEW 25:46

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a great day coming when we will be given an eternal home. Where will you spend eternity?
2. In Matthew 25, Jesus portrays the final Day of Judgment.

I. TWO DIVISIONS

- A. There will be a gathering of angels.
 1. **MATTHEW 25.31:** “*When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him*”
 2. How many angels will be there? (Rev. 5.11)
- B. There will be a gathering of humanity.
 1. **MATTHEW 25.32:** “*All the nations will be gathered*”
 2. How many will be there? (Acts 17.30,31)

II. TWO DESIGNATIONS

- A. There will be the sheep.
 1. **MATTHEW 25.32:** “*...as a shepherd divides his sheep*”
 2. The sheep are the followers of Jesus. (John 10.14)
- B. There will be goats.
 1. **MATTHEW 25.32:** “*...from the goats.*”
 2. Each group will be held accountable. (John 5.28,29)

III. TWO DESCRIPTIONS

- A. There will be the blessed.
 1. **MATTHEW 25.34:** “*Come, you blessed of My Father*”
 2. Those who are spoken of by God. (1 Thess. 2.4)
 3. Those who live for others. (Matt. 25.34-40)
- B. There will be the cursed.
 1. **MATTHEW 25.41:** “*Depart from Me, you cursed*”
 2. Those who live for themselves. (Matt. 25.41-46)

IV. TWO DESTINIES

- A. There will be eternal life.
 1. **MATTHEW 25.34:** “*inherit the kingdom*”
 2. Three meanings behind kingdom. (Matt. 6.33; 16.18,19)
 3. Prepared from the beginning. (Matt. 25.34)
- B. There will be eternal fire. (Matt. 25.41)

CONCLUSION: Are you ready for that day to come? (Rom. 2.6-10)

WHAT WILL JESUS FIND WHEN HE COMES?

The children of God live in hope and are “*looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God*” (2 Pet. 3.12). We are looking for the coming of Christ. We echo the words of the apostle John who said, “*Even so, come Lord Jesus!*” (Rev. 22.20). At His arrival, Jesus will gather up all the saved, but what will He find when He comes. 2 Peter 3 tells us what Jesus will be looking for when He returns.

First, He will be looking for people who are at peace with God. 2 Peter 3.14 says that we need to “*be diligent to be found by Him in peace.*” We are at peace with God when we have been justified by faith (Rom. 5.2). You believe in Jesus with a faith that moves you to obey the commands of the gospel, and God will see you as someone who has never sinned. You sins, “*He will remember no more*” (Heb. 8.12). When there are no sins separated us from God, “*we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Rom 5.1).

Second, He will be looking for people who are pure. 2 Peter 3.14 goes on to say, “*without spot and blameless.*” The word “spot” refers to the stain of sin. The word “blameless” refers to being absent of anything of which others can accuse us. Obeying the gospel puts us at peace with God. But you and I can sever that relationship by returning to a sinful lifestyle (2 Pet. 2.20), Like the sow who returns to the mud or the dog that returns to his own vomit, it is possible for God’s people to return to the world (2 Pet. 2.22). If we want to be with Jesus, we need to live pure lives.

Third, He will be looking for people who progress. 2 Peter 3.18 continues this thought by telling us to “*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” God expects Christians to grow. We are to “*desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby*” (1 Pet. 2.2). The Holy Spirit chastised Jewish Christians because, “*by this time you ought to be teachers,*” but they did not grow and were “*unskilled in the word of righteousness*” (Heb. 5.12,13). He then issues them a challenge. He write, “*Let us go on to perfection*” (Heb. 6.1). The word “perfection” is “telios” and carries the idea of maturity. Literally, the Holy Spirit is challenging these brethren to grow up.

Jesus is coming and He is looking for the faithful to take home with Him. What will He find in you? Will He find someone who is at peace with God or at enmity with God (James 4.4)? Will He find someone who is pure from the pollutions of the world? Will He find someone who is progressing in the faith or stagnant? I can’t wait for a new way of life with God and Jesus in heaven. That home is available to anyone who is willing to be right with God.