

# Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

## The Ultimate Gamble

by Greg Kline

“...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: ‘As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:10c-12).

Every Christian knows that one day the Lord will come again and then we will be judged and enter Heaven or Hell eternally. However, what is often over-looked is that we will be judged on *everything* we do and *how* we do everything (Colossians 3:17).

Oftentimes we as Christians fool ourselves into thinking only when we do work for the Lord (i.e. Sundays, Wednesday nights, teaching others, etc) will we be held accountable for our actions. Others even realize that we are held accountable for our sin or lack of adherence to the gospel (John 12:48).

Perhaps the most pervasive erroneous thought held by Christians is that there is a time we are not responsible to God, for example, at work. Yet, passages such as Col 3:17 that tells how diligently we should work, and 1 Timothy 6:1 which says even “Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor”.

Thus even lowly *servants* have specific instructions on how to go about their lives. This is in addition to knowing that in everything we do we are to be lights to the world (Matt 5:14-16) and live with such a “hope” that people ask us for the reason we have such high spirits (1 Peter 3:15)!

Gamblers often go to Las Vegas to try and “win big and win fast.” Many will enter with varying amounts but let’s say one enters with \$1,000. Our gambler wins instantly an extra \$2,000. Now with those winnings in his pocket, our gambler is now a lot more casual in his approach due to the “house money” effect. That is, he is playing with money he didn’t expect to have anyway so he doesn’t really care if he loses it.

Unfortunately for our gambler, this attitude is hard to stop, and may lead to all of his money disappearing. Christians *must* realize our souls are not simply “house money” and if we “lose” we can’t just start over again.

We have ONE shot at eternity, and have been richly blessed by God to be stewards over our bodies which are HIS bodies, HIS material blessings, and even HIS word. Therefore, it is pertinent that Christians realize that *any*

*and every* decision that we make is right and pleasing in the sight of God, and is in the best interest of our chances at entering Heaven.

Are we like the servants that multiplied their talents, doing everything we can to please God and be fruitful for Him, or are we like the servant who hid his talent in the ground (Matt 25:13-26)? The latter servant was condemned as “wicked and lazy” in verse 26, and we likewise will be denied by our heavenly Father if we refuse to devote our lives to His commands.

The true disciple of God will forsake all that he has, leaving family and possessions to follow Christ and bear his cross daily (Luke 9:57-62; 23).

“For what profit is it to man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?” (Luke 9:25) is the question we all must answer before we do anything as Christians. If we wish to truly be in submission to God and receive our “crown of righteousness” (2 Tim 4:8) we will “seek first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33).

**This week's video lesson is:** (Contact me if you do not have Quicktime)

Hebrews 4:1-11, The Christian's Sabbath

[http://www.bumby.org/tv\\_program/current\\_video.php](http://www.bumby.org/tv_program/current_video.php)

**Online Study Guide Available, Contact me for link.**