

BELIEVERS ARE READY

JOHN 5:27-30

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: An interesting book on judgments, heaven, and resurrection is Heaven by Randy Alcorn.

BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH. When I placed my faith in Jesus and what He did on the cross to pay for my sin, He forgave my sin and replaced it with His righteousness. He also gave me the Holy Spirit as a guarantee that I belong to Him. When I die, God will welcome me into heaven because He will see Christ's righteousness that He has given me instead of my sin. (**John 5:27-30, John 5:24, fn 5:24, Ephesians 2:8, 9, fn 2:8, 9, Romans 5:17-19, fn 5:15-19, II Corinthians 5:5, 17, 21, fn 5:5, fn 5:21**) *How do you know that you are forgiven and blessed with Christ's righteousness?*

TO GO TO HEAVEN. During my quiet times with the Lord, I can receive a small taste of what heaven will be like. "Heaven is the place where God most fully makes known His presence to bless." Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 1159. In heaven, without the curse of sin and my citizenship confirmed, I can fully know Jesus as my treasure and myself as His treasure. Jesus left heaven to seek and save me. He has paid the price for my salvation and I will experience the fullness of Heaven's place of unspeakable joy and fellowship with Him of which I can only have a taste now. (**John 5:27-30, Ephesians 1:13, 14, fn 1:13, 14, Philippians 3:20, 21, fn 3:20, John 14:1-3, fn 14:2, 3, II Corinthians 5:1-5, fn 5:4, Hebrews 13:14, fn 13:14**) *How could you realize now that your citizenship is in heaven?*

TO FACE JUDGMENT. My salvation is based on my faith in Jesus, but there will be a judgment of the works that I have done while on earth. At this judgment there will be rewards or loss of rewards based on how I used my God-given faith. (**John 5:28-30, II Peter 3:10-14, fn 3:10, 11, I Peter 4:1-6, fn 4:5, Matthew 6:19-21, fn 6:20, I Corinthians 3:8-15, fn 3:13-15, Daniel 12:2, 3, fn 12:3**) *What do you need to change to gain more rewards in heaven?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?