

Evangelist Bob Salliby

“Bob, how long is eternity?” / “If you multiply the grains of sand on the seashore by the number of stars in the sky, when you’ve been there that many years, eternity has barely begun.”

“Bob, in light of eternity, how long is your life?”

“Bob, will you give me *this*?”

1. There are only two eternal destinations.

Mt. 25:31ff [Jesus speaking] When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world...

verse 41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels...

2Pt. 1:10-11 Therefore, my brothers be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

the elite When they were insulted, they answered kindly. When they were persecuted, they prayed for their persecutors. When they were mistreated, they blessed those who abused them. They were as wise as snakes yet as innocent as doves. They followed the Lamb faithfully with instant obedience wherever he led them, without complaining, grumbling, or any resistance. They loved deeply, and because of their great love they made great sacrifices joyfully for the sake of their God, His kingdom, and His people. They experienced great intimacy with their Lord on a daily basis. They treated even the insignificant and despised with honor, dignity, love, and tenderness. They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. They emptied themselves out in serving their God and the people around them. The book of Hebrews declares that they lived their lives by faith; that they were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated – ***the world was not worthy of them.***

By the way, you and I are called, invited, beckoned, and summoned by ***The Almighty*** to be included in their number. All the saints from all ages have been invited, but precious few ever actually make it. Our destiny is in our own hands.

1Co. 3:13-15 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

the lowest For ever and ever, they will bear the reproach of the fact that their lives on earth were wasted, having lived for self. They will remember with horror how they viewed the things of God as unimportant or insignificant, because they were so focused upon their own lives – their worries, pleasures, cares, or possessions.

Lk. 16:25-26 [from the story of the rich man and Lazarus] “But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

Ez. 18:30 “Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. **verse 32:** For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

2Pt. 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

1Tim. 2:3-4 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Mt. 11:21-24 [Jesus speaking] “Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”

Lk. 10:10-12 [Jesus speaking to the 72 he is sending out] But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

2. God will judge us according to...

our actions.

2Co. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Mt. 16:27 [Jesus speaking] For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

Ro. 2:6-10 God “will give to each person according to what he has done.” To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Ez. 33:20 [the LORD speaking to the Israelites] Yet, O house of Israel, you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' But I will judge each of you according to his own ways.”

Jer. 17:10 “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.”

our words.

Mt. 12:33-37 [Jesus speaking] “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Lk. 19:22a [Jesus, giving the Parable of the Ten Minas] “His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant!’

Jas. 5:9 Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Ps. 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Pr. 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

our motives.

1Co. 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

1Chr. 28:9b for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.

Ro. 2:16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Lk. 12:2 [Jesus speaking] There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

the light we have received.

Mt. 11:20-24 Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”

Lk. 12:47-48 [Jesus speaking] “That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Mt. 10:14-15 [Jesus commissioning his disciples] If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

Mt. 12:41-42 [Jesus speaking] The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.

the way we judge others.

Mt. 7:1-2 [Jesus speaking] “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Lk. 6:37-38 [Jesus speaking] “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Mt. 6:14-15 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Ro. 2:1-5 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Ez. 7:27b I will deal with them according to their conduct, and by their own standards I will judge them. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

the truth.

Ro. 2:2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.

Rev. 16:7 And I heard the altar respond: “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.”

Rev. 19:1-2a After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments.

Ps. 96:13b He [the LORD] will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.

his own word.

Jn. 12:47-49 [Jesus speaking] "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.

Jn. 5:45-47 [Jesus speaking] "But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"

his own impartiality.

1Pt. 1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

Ro. 2:11 For God does not show favoritism.

Ac. 10:34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism

2Chr. 19:6-7 [Jehoshaphat speaking to the judges he had appointed] He told them, "Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the LORD, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery."

Dt. 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

3. In light of God's eternal judgment, we should...

better understand and appreciate God's authority.

Ps. 47:2, 7 How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth! For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

Jer. 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath.

Ps. 99:1 The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

Heb. 12:23b You have come to God, the judge of all men,

Eph. 1:20-22 which he [God the Father] exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything...

Gen. 18:25 [Abraham pleading with God] ...Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

fear God.

Ecc. 12:13-14 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Dt. 5:28b-29 [God speaking to Moses about the Israelites] Everything they said was good. Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!

Ex. 20:20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

Rev. 14:7 He [the angel] said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

1Pt. 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Ac. 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

Heb. 12:28-29 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

not fear man.

Lk. 12:4-5 [Jesus speaking] "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

Pr. 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Dt. 1:17 [Moses charging newly appointed judges] Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of any man, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it.

Mt. 10:25b-26 [Jesus speaking] If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!
“So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

Heb. 13:5-6 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”
So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

learn to excel in being merciful.

Jas. 2:12-13 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

Mt. 5:7 [Jesus speaking] Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Mic. 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Mt. 12:7 [Jesus speaking to some Pharisees] If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent.

Eph. 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

not judge others.

Mt. 7:1-5 [Jesus speaking] “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Ro. 14:4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Jas. 4:11-12 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbor?

Ro. 2:1-3 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

1Co. 4:5a Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts.

Ro. 14:10-13 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

carefully judge ourselves.

1Co. 11:31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

Ps. 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

learn to entrust the injustices of this life into the Lord's hands.

1Pt. 2:23 When they hurled their insults at him [Jesus], he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Ps. 37:5-6 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

have great passion & faithfulness in leading others to Christ.

2Co. 5:10-11a For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.

2Co. 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

QUOTE "If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for."
- Charles Spurgeon

INDIAN CEMETERY

The inscription on a tombstone in an Indian cemetery read:

*Pause, stranger, as you pass me by.
As you now are, so once was I.
As I am now, so you will be,
So prepare for death and follow me.*

Below this inscription, someone had scribbled the following reply:

*To follow you I'm not content,
Until I know which way you went.*