

**OUR REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS  
BEFORE A HOLY GOD**



## WHAT ARE OUR REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS BEFORE A HOLY GOD? THE BIBLE GIVES US TWO ...

- **REALISTIC EXPECTATION #1: LIVE FOREVER WITH GOD IN HEAVEN.**

Since our life with God begins here on earth, our lives will give evidence of our eternal destination. In the Bible God gives those who believe in him and his gospel all the information necessary to have the realistic expectation to be with him in glory when our days on earth end. His very clear and deliberate intent is that we will have full assurance of joy as we anticipate that day when we shall be in his presence.

- **REALISTIC EXPECTATION #2: FACE THE TERRIFYING JUDGMENT OF GOD.**

Those who do not have this full assurance and joyful anticipation of being with the Lord are left with only the fear and dread of death and wishful thinking. These are the pitiful ones who have refused to believe God while on earth and are blind to the coming judgment.

**REALISTIC EXPECTATION #1:** The realistic expectation of life with God in heaven when we by the blood of Jesus draw near to the presence of God in full assurance of faith, hold fast our confession of hope without wavering and are intent on stimulating one another to love and good deeds.

- (Hebrews 10:19–25 LSB) Therefore, brothers, **since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus**, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 **let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering**, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And **let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds**, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

### 1. Our confidence to enter the holy places of God by the blood of Jesus is a living reality based solely on the saving power of Jesus Son of God.

- (1 Corinthians 1:18 LSB) For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, **but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.**
- (1 Corinthians 1:23–24 LSB) But we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 **but to those who are called**, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

A. We trust in Jesus Christ as our sacrifice.

B. We trust in the Son of God as our merciful and faithful high priest.

### 2. There are *three powerful evidences* that demonstrate the work and fruit of the Spirit in the lives of those for whom this is a living reality.

▶ **A. DRAW NEAR:** We draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith when our evil conscience is cleansed and our bodies are washed by the word.

- (Hebrews 10:22 LSB) **Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**

**Full assurance:** πληροφορία [plerophoria] complete confidence; a confidence that is full and complete in someone or something; most certain confidence.

- (Hebrews 6:11–12 LSB) And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence **so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end**, 12 **so that you may not become dull**, but imitators of **those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**
- i. This person lives with the wealth of full assurance because the blood of Christ cleanses his evil conscience of the faulty logic of self-effort in regard to the reality of his standing before a holy God.
- (Colossians 2:2 LSB) So that their hearts may be encouraged, having been held together in love, **even unto all the wealth of the full assurance of understanding**, unto the full knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself.

- (Hebrews 9:13–14 ESV) For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, **sanctify for the purification of the flesh**, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, **purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God**.
- ii. We draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith when our bodies are daily sanctified by the washing of the pure water of the word of God.
- (1 John 1:9 LSB) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins **and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**.
  - (Ezekiel 36:25 ESV) **I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.**
  - (1 Corinthians 6:11 LSB) And such were some of you; **but you were washed, but you were sanctified**, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.
  - (Ephesians 5:25–27 LSB) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 **so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word**, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless.
  - (Titus 3:5–6 LSB) He saved us, not by works which we did in righteousness, but according to His mercy, **through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit**, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

▶ **B. HOLD FAST:** We hold fast to what we believe and say to be true without wavering because we know that God is faithful to his promise.

- (Hebrews 10:23 LSB) Let us **hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering**, for He who promised is faithful.
- (1 Corinthians 15:1–2 LSB) Now I make known to you, brothers, **the gospel which I**

**proclaimed** as good news to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 **by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I proclaimed to you as good news**, unless you believed for nothing.

▶ **C. GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT:** We give careful thought as to how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.

- (Hebrews 10:24–25 LSB) And let us **consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds**, 25 **not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some**, but encouraging one another, **and all the more as you see the day drawing near**.

**Consider ...** to give careful thought or consideration to something; to consider attentively, fix one's eyes or mind upon.

**We must first** give careful thought to what is meant by love and good deeds.

i. **Our work:** We are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do the work of God.

- (Ephesians 2:10 LSB) **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand **so that we would walk in them**.

ii. **Our love:** We are commanded to relate to God by loving God with **all** our heart, **all** our soul, **all** our mind and **all** our strength.

iii. **Our worship:** When we forsake assembling together, we reveal our true belief that God, the worship of God and the people of God are not as important as the things of this world.

- (Hebrews 10:25a LSB) **Not forsaking** our own assembling together, **as is the habit of some**.

iv. **Our urgency:** We are to encourage one another and even more as we see the day drawing near.

- (Hebrews 3:13–14 LSB) **But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "TODAY," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin**. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ, **if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end**.

v. **Summary:** We will stand before God one day to give an account—our love for God, our work for God and our words will provide testimony as to our realistic expectation and destination.

- (Hebrews 4:13 LSB) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, **but all**

things are uncovered and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we have an account to give.

- (Romans 14:12 LSB) So then **each one of us will give an account of himself to God.**
- (Matthew 12:36–37 LSB) But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, **they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.** 37 For **by your words** you will be justified, and **by your words** you will be condemned.

**REALISTIC EXPECTATION #2:** The terrifying expectation of falling into the hands of the living God.

- (Hebrews 10:26–31 LSB) **For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth,** there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. 28 **Anyone who has set aside** the Law of Moses dies without mercy by the mouth of two or three witnesses. 29 **How much worse punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God,** and has **regarded as defiled the blood of the covenant** by which he was sanctified, and has **insulted the Spirit of grace?** 30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." 31 **It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

1. This person goes on willfully sinning even after receiving the truth that would change the realistic expectation of his life.

- A. This is not just any person who has rejected the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- B. This person has received sufficient knowledge of Christ and the gospel and has set it aside.

2. We learn what this setting aside means from the example of those who set aside the Law of Moses.

EXAMPLES OF SETTING ASIDE THE LAW ...

- A. The animals they brought for sacrifice were to be without blemish.
  - (Leviticus 3:1 LSB) Now if his offering is a sacrifice of peace offerings, if he is going to bring near one from the herd, whether male or female, **he shall bring it**

**near without blemish before Yahweh.**

- (Deuteronomy 15:21 LSB) But if it has any **defect**, such as **lameness** or **blindness**, or **any serious defect**, **you shall not sacrifice it to Yahweh your God.**

B. They set aside the Law when they brought animals to sacrifice that were defiled.

- (Malachi 1:6–8 NLT) The LORD of Heaven's Armies says to the priests: "A son honors his father, and a servant respects his master. **If I am your father and master**, where are the honor and respect I deserve? **You have shown contempt for my name!**" "But you ask, 'How have we ever shown contempt for your name?'" 7 "**You have shown contempt by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar.**" "Then you ask, 'How have we defiled the sacrifices?'" "You defile them by saying the altar of the LORD deserves no respect. 8 **When you give blind animals as sacrifices, isn't that wrong? And isn't it wrong to offer animals that are crippled and diseased?** Try giving gifts like that to your governor, and see how pleased he is!" says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

3. Here are the three indictments—formal charges—brought against those who set aside the sacrificial and priestly work of Christ alone.

- A. They have trampled underfoot the Son of God.
- B. They have regarded as defiled the blood of the covenant.
- C. They have insulted the Spirit of grace.
- D. They will face a "much worse punishment" than those in the OT who offered defiled sacrifices.

4. The great sin addressed here is "setting aside" God's version of life for my version of life.

The one who lives his version of life has only one realistic expectation and that is **"THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES."**