

**"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16**

## Are You About Your Father's Business?



At age twelve, Jesus went to Jerusalem with his parents for the Passover. Instead of departing with them to Nazareth, He stayed behind talking with the teachers in the temple. When they found Him, He responded to His mother's question saying: "Why is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business" ([Lk. 2:49](#))?

The fact that Jesus said "My Father's business" denotes that there is business that is not His Father's. John says: "In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifested: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother" ([1 Jn. 3:10](#)). In other words, those who are practicing righteousness are about God's business, but, those who do not practice righteousness are about the devil's business.

Pause and think about these questions: Whose child am I - God's or the devil's? Am I about God's business or the devil's business?

Consider these four aspects of being about God's business. First we must prepare to be about our Father's business. Have you ever met an earthly son engaging in His father's business without training and preparation? A son generally has a special place in his father's business. As a part of being about his father's business he engages in an intensive training program perhaps going to college and working in the factory, administrative offices, inside sales, and outside sales. A

son about his father's business faithfully looks out for his father's interests.

Secondly, those involved in their Father's business must endure suffering. Jesus is our example of suffering: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 'Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth'; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" ([1 Pet. 2:21-24](#)). And Paul says: "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" ([2 Tim. 3:12](#)).

Third, God strengthens us to do His will ([Eph. 3:16-20](#); [Col. 1:11](#)) while rejoicing in trials and tribulations ([Rom. 5:3f](#); [Jas. 1:2-4](#)). God has set in motion the spiritual forces of the universe so that no temptation can overtake us without their being a way of escape provided ([1 Cor. 10:13](#)). He works all things together for good ([Rom. 8:28](#)) and abundantly supplies for every good work ([2 Cor. 9:6-11](#)). The only reason for not being about our Father's business is a lack of desire, commitment, and devotion toward God.

Fourth, there is a reward for those about their Father's business. On earth, a son about his father's business receives a reward - an inheritance. But, a son not about his father's business does not receive a reward. Likewise, those about God's business receive an inheritance - eternal life. Paul says: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" ([2 Tim. 4:6-8](#)).

Are you about your Father's business? Are you enduring the trials, tribulations, and persecutions of this world to accomplish His will in your life? Are you a faithful child of of God sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise guaranteeing your inheritance ([Eph. 1:13-14](#))? - Allan McNabb.

**HAVE YOU STUDIED YOUR BIBLE TODAY?**

## We Must All Appear Before the Judgment Seat of Christ



"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well-known to God, and I also trust are well-known in your consciences" ([2 Cor. 5:9-10](#)).

To the Hebrews Paul wrote: ". . . it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" ([Heb. 9:27](#)).

There are many things in life that we can avoid. But, we cannot escape our appearance before the judgment seat of Christ. For people outside of Christ, this is a fearful thought. But for Christians, we look forward to the day of standing before our Lord having been washed in his blood.

What will happen at the judgment? What will it be like to stand before Christ and be judged? What will you do when standing before the Lord in judgment?

After being judged, some souls will enter into the blessed rest of our heavenly Father and some will enter into eternal punishment. Jesus illustrates the kingdom of heaven with the parable of a marriage feast. At the end of the parable Jesus speaks of the punishment reserved for those who did not respond to the call saying: "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer

darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen" ([Matt. 22:13-14](#)). In another place Jesus speaks of eternal punishment as the place where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.

Punishment of those who are not obedient to the will of God will be greater than we are capable of imagining. There will be "punishment with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" ([2 Th. 1:9](#)).

Everyone must die. And, everyone must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. But we can all escape the eternal torment of hell through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Peter said: "And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your sojourning here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" ([1 Pet. 1:17-19](#)).

Jesus' blood is precious. It is of great value. Because of Jesus and the shedding of His blood, we may escape the eternal torment of hell and live with our God and Savior for eternity.

If we truly understand our impending judgment and the punishment awaiting the unjust, we will diligently seek to contact Christ's blood. And, if we appreciate the extreme value of Jesus and His blood, we will diligently seek after Him. Jesus said: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it" ([Matt. 13:44-46](#)).

In one respect, the treasure and pearl of great price are Jesus Christ. Have you sold all that you have to obtain Him as Lord of your life? - Allan McNabb.

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