

## **“Prepare to meet thy God” (Amos 4:12)**

We are instructed and warned in the Bible to prepare to meet our God. He is called “our God” because we all are accountable to Him and are obligated to live by His truth on His terms. We will all stand before Him to be judged for our lives, even our thoughts and secret works.

Many hope they'll be ready to meet God, others assume they are ready, some know they're not and tell themselves they'll get ready later, while some deny the need to be ready altogether. But God warned us in His Word to get ready and prepare to meet Him- and also warned us not to put it off for anything. In another Scripture we are told, “Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6-7)

It is an eternal principle that God never pardons and turns away His wrath from anyone until they forsake the disobedient attitude toward Him and the sins which have caused His wrath to abide on mankind. We are told in the New Testament, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18). Those who won't fully live in the light of truth which God has made available to them rebel against Him. None can be saved who will not repent and honor all His commandments. We must turn from going our own way and denying God His full right to our obedience- and thus we must fully turn from doing what's in our own eyes to doing what's right in God's eyes. That is true repentance according to the Bible.

There is a way to be made right with God, by which God can justly pardon us and not count our sins against us. “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (1 Peter 3:18). Christ's death and resurrection is intended to reconcile man to God- not to reconcile God to man (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). There IS a difference between the two. That is, Christ did not die for us and rise again so we can continue to go our own way in sin and yet still be pardoned and saved. The Bible says “God forbid” to that idea (Romans 6). Christ died to redeem us from our sins and to persuade us to turn from them in order to be under God's rule and reign through Him (1 Peter 2:24). To have an interest in Him we must forsake the rebellion and sins which put Him on the cross in order to live to God by Him. He is King/Lord as well as Savior. To prepare to meet God we must receive Christ for who He is in every way, which means not only sincerely asking for forgiveness through Him, but also honoring His authority as the King of mankind and bowing to His righteous government. Doing so necessarily means being willing to heed what the Bible says and to align ourselves with the truth revealed therein (Romans 12:1-2). Jesus said “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which hath sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” (John 5:22-24)

Anyone who would be prepared to meet God must get prepared amidst the cares and distractions of life. Nothing is more important than being prepared to meet our God; and nothing is worth putting it off for. Remember that Jesus said “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26)