BE YE SEPARATE

Ages 10 - 13

The Missionary Baptist
Vacation Bible School Literature Committee presents

"Be Ye Separate"

Vacation Bible School Lessons for Ages 10-13
Written by Sister Ashley Murphy

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LESSON ONE

CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY

LESSON TEXT
2 CORINTHIANS 6:17

WRITTEN BY
SISTER ASHLEY MURPHY

LESSON TEXT
Josh 24: 15
15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

INTRODUCTION

Joshua succeeded Moses as God's chosen messenger and leader of the Israelites. After reaching the Promised Land, he called them together and delivered the message you read in Joshua 24 (notice Joshua speaks God's words in the first person). As you read the chapter, remember with Joshua and his people all of the history of the children of Israel, from to the present. Were it not for these people, God's truth might never have spread as far on earth as it has today. We owe our knowledge of God to this group of Israelites and Joshua, their leader.

The chapter's most powerful statement is in verse 15: "Choose you this day." Throughout history, great statements of action have been short, with meaning in every word. Let us examine these words.

CHOOSE

When you make a choice, you say "yes" to one thing. You accept one thing. You take one thing. Every choice opens a door. Whether or not you realize it, you also say "no" to every other option; you deny every other thing; you close all other doors. The choice God offered the Israelites is the ultimate choice.

The options of this choice are two: the true, living God, or all other gods. Notice from Joshua 24:15 that the Israelites may choose "gods ... on the other

side of the flood" or "gods of the Amorites." Not one of these gods is worthy to be singled out. Ancient peoples imagined many gods with different powers and personalities; each one had faults, and in stories, these gods often fought amongst themselves or spent their time playing tricks on humans. (A person's main reason for worshiping such gods was to avoid their tricks or their anger when they did not receive the best sacrifices of food or money. If any of these "gods" exists, they are rather demons in Satan's employ. Perhaps they exist only in humans' imaginations.)

In contrast to other gods, the true living God towers, all-knowing, all-present, and all-powerful. If the Jews called Him simply "God," it was because they had so much reverence for His holiness that they did not use His true name, Jehovah, the great I AM. This holy God is without faults, and without tricks (Deut. 32:4). In chapter 24 of Joshua, He tells the people of His love and protection and all the gifts the Israelites received without earning.

Though the options may sound different, your choice is the same today. You have many false gods to choose from. What is a god, but a thing that is worshipped? Today's "gods of Amorites" are the gods of the world – money, physical beauty, and any form of selfishness. One can create a god of possessions or of popularity. Like ancient false gods, these gods are deceitful, are of Satan, and exist only in human imagination.

When you choose the true, living God, you are choosing His love and protection. Consider all the gifts you have received without earning. Perhaps half of the people on earth live in poverty or under a government that is not free – probably more than half. Meanwhile, you sit in comfort, surrounded by loving friends and family. In addition to all those worldly blessings, God offers you a way of forgiveness and peace through His Son. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock" (Rev. 3:20). Once you have been saved, you cannot expect Him to share your heart with sinful gods. The door must be closed to all others. God commands that you have no other

gods before Him.

YOU

Your choice as a lost person is to seek God's forgiveness. A lost soul cannot just choose to be saved, but must approach the Father asking for forgiveness through the Son. All the saving power rests with God who promises to save those with a "contrite spirit" (Ps. 34:18). In other words, the lost must repent.

Once you are saved and forgiven of your sins, the choice doesn't stop. The saved must choose God's path throughout daily life, even minute by minute. You need only to turn on a television to survey the evil choices that are offered by the world.

The Israelites had heard of other gods that existed "on the other side of the flood"; that is, before Noah's time. What is "the flood" in your life? Noah's flood was the greatest turning point or change in history up to that time; the turning point in a Christian's life is salvation, when all past sins are washed away. The gods from before this "flood," be they money, selfish desires, or other sins, will still tempt you; it is up to you to choose God's way instead.

When the Israelites chose the Lord, Joshua set up a stone memorial as a witness. What is the memorial in your life? Is there a physical change, in your habits or outward appearance, that stands as a witness for Christ?

After making this covenant, Joshua let the people depart. Some time afterward, he died. His job as mediator for the Israelites was over. In the same way, you, too, can depend on no one else to make this choice for you. While it is universal (must be made by everyone), it is also personal (must be made by each individual; think of the Prodigal Son or Paul).

THIS DAY

God is your certain and sure choice. Choosing God brings great blessings to all God's children, from Abraham (Gen. 22:18) throughout history (Pro. 3:3-4). Best of all, this choice is open to anyone: "And whosoever will, let him take the

water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). And yet some people hesitate to choose.

"...ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14) "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Ps. 90:12) "...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2) What more can be added? If you knew there were only five minutes left in this life, your attention would turn quickly to your relationship with God. Make those five minutes these next five minutes!

LESSON TWO

BE CHRIST-LIKE

LESSON TEXT
Romans 6:4

WRITTEN BY
SISTER ASHLEY MURPHY

LESSON TEXT
Romans 6:4
4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

INTRODUCTION

When you think of Jesus Christ, what comes to mind? Physical appearance? Things He said? Things He did? People He spent time with? If you consider being Christlike, which of these traits would you try to adopt?

Can you imagine Christ living on earth in today's world? What would He look like? What would He say and do? With whom would He associate? Discuss these questions with your classmates. Now, take that modern-day scenario and place yourself in His role. That is your assignment as a Christian – to be Christlike. How do you measure up?

A SAVED SOUL <u>IS</u> CHRISTLIKE

Regardless of your current progress on the way to becoming more like Christ, if you have been saved, you have already begun to transform. Romans 8:29: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Your newborn soul is like Christ, guaranteed to exist with God forever. When God examines your soul, he sees Christ's righteousness. Forgiven sinners are just as precious to God as His own Son. Romans 8:16-17 tells us we are children of God, joint-heirs with Christ. What a glorious honor – and yet there's more.

Your salvation enables you to communicate directly with God through the Holy Spirit. With this power you hear God's guidance, whether to lead you

to speak to a lost friend or to help you make difficult decisions. In thanks, in need, in sorrow – the Holy Spirit is closer than a phone call away. God wants you to make use of His spiritual link to your soul. Your prayer to be saved may have been frightened and sorrowful, but your prayers after you are saved can spring totally from love! Romans 8:15: "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Jesus cried out to His Father many times while He lived here on earth, and His example shows us to do so as well.

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

Your Christlike soul and your link to God in prayer are all that's necessary for your own spiritual well-being. God's purpose for you, however, is so much larger than that! Christians should be Christlike in a way that others can see, as well. Why? First of all, it is the least you can do in gratitude for the gift of forgiveness. If God were to ask one million dollars for salvation in eternity, wouldn't it be worth it? And yet He requires nothing but repentance and faith in His Son Jesus. To spend a lifetime in Christ's likeness is one way you can show thankfulness to God.

Another reason to be Christlike is the benefit to lost humanity. In a typical school day, think of how many people you see and speak to whose spiritual lives are in reasonable doubt – that is, they display no signs of spirituality or devotion to God. That number might reach one hundred or more. These are the people with whom God has placed you in contact, and you may be their only chance of seeing a Christlike example firsthand. Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

So how does a Christlike person behave? In class, look up the following scripture references for some traits Jesus showed while on earth. Read these examples, and then think of how you may show this behavior in your life.

obedient
Matt. 4:4
Matt. 26:39
Philipp. 2:8

about His Father's business
Luke 2:49
John 4:34

sinless
1 Pet. 2:22
Heb. 4:15

non-retaliating
Mt. 5:44
Lk. 23:34
1 Pet. 2:23

serving
Matt. 20:28
John 13:5,16

longsuffering
Matt. 17:17
Matt. 26:40

Are these kinds of things possible in today's life? We speak about them in church, but outside, where Christians seem to be in the minority, they may seem unrealistic. Yes, they are possible, "for with God, all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). Yes, they are also difficult. But do not forget that Jesus has done these things and even more difficult things before you. He understands exactly what you feel, because He has felt those same fears. By trusting in Him, "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me." (Philipp. 4:13)

CHRIST-LIKE IN ETERNITY

In your attempts to be Christlike here on earth, you may face many trials, and that, too, is what Christ did. Through everything, you have the comfort and assurance that after this life is over, you will become fully Christlike, in heaven, for eternity. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (1 John 3:2,3) Earthly bodies will be changed into perfect, incorruptible bodies (1 Cor. 15:52), and all the saved will be as those in John's revelation, glorifying God forever.

LESSON THREE

KEEP THY HEART

LESSON TEXT
PROVERBS 4:23

WRITTEN BY
SISTER ASHLEY MURPHY

LESSON TEXT
Proverbs 4: 23
23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

A LESSON IN CARDIAC CARE

Most people of your age are far too young to have experienced any physical problems with heart health. Nevertheless, you hear about such problems in the media and perhaps among your older relatives and friends. Heart disease is very common in our culture. What you may not hear about are the problems, just as common and deadly, with spiritual heart health.

Consider the heart's physical functions and see how they are mirrored spiritually. The work of the heart sustains the whole body; so the spiritual heart sustains life, as in our lesson text above. The heart is the most vital organ; so the spiritual heart carries out the most vital function: "for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness" (Ro. 10:10). A heart must be in good overall condition because God desires man's whole heart: "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart" (Ps. 119:2). A person with a healthy heart can "run the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1), and do good works (Matt. 12:35). The pulse rate of a healthy heart is calm and steady; consider David's heart health: "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed" (Ps. 57:7).

Heart problems often arise due to neglecting healthy habits or through heredity. So spiritual heart problems arise through the one disease all humans inherit: sin.

THE SYMPTOMS

Each person's cardiac checkup would reveal a common symptom: "The heart is deceit-

ful and wicked above all things" (Jer. 17:9). Every indulgence in selfish, short-term pleasure causes long-term damage. The type of indulgence varies with the patient.

Hebrews 3:12 warns, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." The sin of unbelief is symptomatic of a terminal spiritual disease. Only Jesus' miraculous intercession on the patient's behalf can change the diagnosis. Ask God to search your heart; are you suffering from this sin of unbelief? Today is the day to seek out forgiveness in prayer.

Patients who are saved will still experience troubling symptoms. Hosea 10:2 tells us, "Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty." Now, if a physical heart was actually divided, life would end – with the heart torn in two, the body would die. Spiritual division is no less destructive, but its onset is gradual. Saved patients do not experience one painful moment of division, but perhaps months and years of a slow drift in priorities. For example, one could decide to skip regular prayer once because of a busy day, and from there, allow schedules and other commitments to keep him from prayer more and more often. In the end, prayer has all but ceased. The patient has a saved soul, but his life belongs to the world, and his heart is chronically divided. Are you suffering from a sense of unhappiness: uncomfortable in the world, yet accomplishing little for your church? God is not pleased with this disease of the divided heart: "ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24).

THE GREAT CARDIOLOGIST

You would not trust a heart doctor who has no degree in medicine; likewise, you would be uncomfortable getting treatment from some robotic doctor-machine, which might possess knowledge, but has no heart itself. This is what makes Jesus the perfect heart doctor.

Jesus has perfect (or complete) knowledge of each person's individual heart. In Mark 2:8, Jesus knew the negative thoughts of the Pharisees and

called them out: "Why reason ye these things in your hearts?" Jesus was given this power by His Father: "Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?" (Prov. 15:11).

Jesus furthermore is no robot-god: "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Jesus has a heart, and He knows our hearts intimately. Please see Him for a heart exam today.

Rx

Although a personal consultation is needed with Jesus to make your heart right, God has provided many prescriptions for maintaining a healthy heart; you may find them bound together in the form of the Bible.

The first prescription for the physical heart is education – find information about your condition, and learn what steps to take. Likewise, with your spiritual heart: seek knowledge from God. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God" (James 1:5). "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Pro. 3:5).

"Preventative care" can be used to prevent heart damage later on. Such care includes good nutrition. An appropriate spiritual-heart diet is laid out in Philippians 4:8: "...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Exercise of the heart also prevents disease. Paul's exercise regimen, according to 1 Corinthians 9:26-27: "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection." See also: mental exercise (2 Tim. 2:15) and emotional exercise (Luke 2:19).

A common prescription for physical heart health is to cut down on cholesterol, which

can build up and clog arteries, lessening blood flow. 1 Peter 3:15 tells you to "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts." To sanctify is to make holy or separate. Mixing in your selfish desires with those of God can cause blockages in your spiritual heart.

A final way to build heart health is to reduce stress. "Let the peace of God rule in your heart" (Col. 3:12-17).

PREVENTING HEART ATTACK

During a heart attack, the heart loses its functionality. The attack may be due to some weakness, defect or extreme stress. Ask Jesus to examine your heart regularly to detect and treat such symptoms. A heart attack is a sudden event that is caused by long-term damage. Now, in your youth, is the time to establish long-term habits of preventative care to keep your heart healthy and working for God.

LESSON FOUR

ABSTAIN FROM EVIL

LESSON TEXT
1 THESSALONIANS 5:22

WRITTEN BY
SISTER ASHLEY MURPHY

LESSON TEXT

1 Thessalonians 5: 22
22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

INTRODUCTION

Make a list of people you consider to be model Christians, who have made the right choices, who are Christlike, and who keep their hearts, as you have studied this week. As you consider the people you have listed, ask yourself: do these people know you've been observing them? Evaluating their behavior? Would they be embarrassed to know you've paid so much attention?

Now, how do you feel, realizing that others are observing you in the same way? In your church, everyone your age and younger sees you as an example to follow; everyone older is watching you with hope for the future. Your family may also see you as an example, especially those family members who do not attend church. Your friends at school observe all students your age to gauge the range of behavior and decide where they want to fit in. So, what do all these people see?

ALL EYES ON YOU

As a Christian, your behavior should be an advertisement for God to show thankfulness and service to Him and recommend His leadership to everyone you meet. 1 Peter 2:11-12: "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."

If your behavior is instead evil (sinful), it does worse than simply reflect badly on you, your

family, or your church. You give others, Christians or not, the impression that evil behavior will be tolerated by God and that they are free to behave the same way. In accordance with Romans 14:13, "let...no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." For the sake of others, abstain from even the appearance of evil.

YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT

There appears to be a technicality, a loophole, in our lesson text. Some may conclude that appearances alone are important. What other people do not see cannot serve as a stumblingblock. As long as a Christian keeps all evil thoughts inside, they do no harm. Right? Wrong. There is One whose eyes penetrate to the inner man. Luke 12:2: "For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known" by our Lord. There is no "getting away" with evil. It can harm your personal relationship with God.

ENSLAVED AND SEPARATED

In John 8:34, "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." Consider the servitude to sin in this example: a young person engaged in an evil behavior, like disobedience to parents, because it seemed to meet her desires at the time. She did it with the intentions of being happier as a result. And yet what did she really accomplish? Is disobedience anything new? The first one to disobey is Satan, the author of sin. All she accomplished through this sin was a tribute to Satan – an endorsement of his evil ways. By seeking to serve herself, she became a servant to sin. In movies and other media, such disobedience is glorified and such young people are seen as princesses. In reality, they are nothing more than slaves.

Evil holds a person enslaved to sin, and in this condition, he is separated from God. For a lost person, this separation is complete, but even a saved person can get far from God. Psalm 66:18: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." (See also Is. 64:7; Is. 59:2). Every human knows the horrible loneliness of being

without God at some point. Our behavior should reflect our desire to stay close to God.

EXCUSES, EXCUSES

There is no valid excuse for sin, but that has not stopped hundreds of generations of mankind from making them. It won't stop yours, either. Here briefly are some popular excuses and the Bible's authoritative answers to them.

• I can hang out with my friends without copying their behavior. 1 Corinthians 15:33: "Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners."

• The pressure I'm under is different from when my parents were my age. 1 Corinthians 10:13: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man...."

• No one understands how hard it is to totally avoid evil. Hebrews 4:15: "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

• I start out with good intentions, but others provoke me into bad behavior. 1 Thessalonians 5:15: "See that none render evil for evil unto any man...."

Stop searching – there is no excuse that God will accept for sinful behavior or association with sin. Let Romans 12:9 be your guide: "Abhor that which is evil...."

ABSTAIN WITH GOOD CAUSE

Don't lose sight of the awesome change God can bring about in your life. When you consider how the Lord has blessed you, abstaining from evil gets easier. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:5, "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." When abstaining from evil, you reflect Jesus to the world: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy..." (1 Pet. 1:15).

In times of temptation, Jesus instructs you to rely on the Lord: "After this manner therefore pray ye...deliver us from evil" (Matt. 6:9, 13). Behave in a way that not only turns from evil but delivers a bold statement and a witness to the world: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Ro. 12:21).

LESSON FIVE

FINALLY SEPARATE

LESSON TEXT
MATTHEW 25:31-34

WRITTEN BY
SISTER ASHLEY MURPHY

LESSON TEXT

Matthew 25:31-34

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

WILL THIS REALLY HAPPEN?

If you have been saved, there was at least one time when you truly believed that trust in God was a matter of eternal life or death. However, for the unsaved and for Christians living wrapped up in worldly concerns, Jesus' message about the end of the world may seem extreme, cruel, or weird. You live in a world where television, comic strips, and music blur the line between saved and lost. Here are some examples:

• TV commercial: a violent rapper gets his afterlife sentence reversed from hell to heaven because he chooses to chew a brand of gum that "cleans up his act."

• Comic strip: "Saint" Peter tells a hopeful entrant to heaven, "I'm sorry, do you have a reservation?"

• Country song: "Lord, I wanna go to heaven, but I don't wanna go tonight."

Topics that inspire fear are often portrayed with humor in order to lessen that fear. While the purpose of the media above might be to dull our senses, the Bible's purpose is to draw lost souls to salvation, and its method is pure truth.

If our lesson text were the only such "story" of final separation, perhaps there would be room for doubt. Read these other references to the events at the end of time: Matt. 13:30; Matt. 13:49, 50; Matt. 24:32-46; Matt. 25:31-34; Matt. 25:45-46; Luke 16:26; Luke 17:34-36; and Rev. 22:15.

Matthew 24:38-42 says: "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." These examples are not comfortable, but discomfort on earth is much better than the eternal pains of hell.

GET RIGHT OR GET LEFT

Other popular misconceptions about that time of separation include the means by which a person can get "on the right hand." Many people believe that a general sense of "faith" will be enough, no matter what the object of faith is (other gods, other people, nature, the "goodness of man"). Jesus says in Matthew 11:27, "All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him." Jesus is the only way.

Others believe that any person calling himself a Christian will be included. Jesus says in Matthew 7:22-23, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." If a person does not possess a spiritual knowledge of God, Jesus will not recognize that person on the last day. Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the

gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

In Lesson One of this series you learned that each person must choose one path, and all other paths will be closed. Please prayerfully consider what this means for your friends and loved ones who are lost. Do not let them make the wrong choice without doing what you can as a witness for Jesus Christ. It can be difficult, especially if your audience is unwilling to listen. Many friends and relatives have parted ways over religion. This is a painful but natural effect of taking a stand for Christ. "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." (John 15:19) Rely on Jesus, "a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24), and do everything you can for His cause.

WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE

The pain of losing lost friends is deep and harsh. Pain is built in to the sinful world in which we live. Our lesson has painted a picture of the last day for Christians to endure pain. Now let us look forward to the time coming afterward; we could call it the Eternal Day.

"Come" – how much joy, relief, and love can come from one syllable, uttered by our Savior Jesus Christ! So where are we going? The apostle John got a glimpse of the new Christian home and wrote about it in Revelation 21:1-4: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

In this new heaven and earth, each Christian also gets a new body. "...and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Cor. 15:52-53).

The full-time job of the Christian in the new world is also described by John. "...these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them." (Rev. 7:14-15) This is what the saved soul yearns to do even now. If you are saved and if you rejoice to read about what God has in store for you in the next life, it would be perfectly all right with your Employer if you get to work early. Serve and praise God even now, and thank Him for salvation.

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