

*The Great White Throne*  
*Judgment*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Every age has had a voice that cries out in the wilderness—messengers who are faithful to preach the Word of God in season and out of season, who stay true to the whole counsel of God.

Early in his ministry, Pastor Stevens received illuminations on Revelation 20:10-15, the final judgment for mankind—the great White Throne Judgment. It is the time when everyone who never personally received the blood of Christ shed on his behalf will be cast down into an eternal abyss called hell. But the horror of that event will be immediately preceded by a moment when each lost soul sees for the last time the eyes of his loved ones and, more horribly, the piercing eyes of the Savior, who no longer knows him.

This message is timeless in its intensity, and devastating in its clarity. It is good to be devastated by the reality of souls going to hell. God

forbid that we ever become familiar with this message. Let it burn ever more intensely as we see the day of our redemption draw nearer, when time for the lost shall be no more.

## *Chapter One*

# PERFECT JUSTICE DEMANDS PERFECT JUDGMENT

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

“And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and

reigned with Christ a thousand years.

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

“And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

“*And I saw a great white throne*, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.



“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; *and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life:* and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

*“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”* (Revelation 20:1-15).

### ***The First Five Judgments***

Today there is much confusion among Christians regarding the judgments of God, but careful study of Scripture reveals eight specific judgments. Some people use John 5:28-29 to speak of one general judgment, yet Luke 14:13-14 distinguishes a judgment for the just and the John 5:29 judgment unto damnation. We will present these judgments as they are separated in time.

The preeminent judgment in human history

was when Jesus Christ—in the hypostatic union of absolute deity clothed in perfect humanity—was judged for all of our sins (1 Peter 2:24). He became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. This was the first amazing judgment, and through it we are saved by grace through faith. Those who are saved will not enter into condemnation, because they have already passed from death unto life (John 5:24).

The next judgment is found in 1 Corinthians 11:31 and Isaiah 43:25, “I, even I, am he that blot-teth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.” This is called the rebound judgment, and it means that believers avoid the chain of discipline and chastisement when we judge our own sins, reckoning on Christ’s full payment. Using immediate rebound, we shake off the dust of the old sin nature and go forward.

A judgment that is seldom taught is the judgment of the saints of the Old Testament and the Millennial Reign. “And...thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great...” (Revelation 11:18).

Next is the judgment of the living Jewish people (Matthew 24:1-25:13). “*As it was in the days of Noah*” so those of the Jewish nation who are still alive at the end of the Tribulation Period will be judged. They will see the nail scars in His hands and feet, the marks of the thorns on His brow, and the wound in His side—marks that will remain throughout eternity. As they gaze upon the One whom they have pierced (Zechariah 12:10), in one day the Jewish nation will become believers.

There is a judgment for the living Gentile nations, which is described in Matthew 25:31-46. This judgment also relates to “as in the days of Noah” spoken of in Matthew 24:37-40.

### ***How God Judges Satan***

The end of the Great Tribulation comes seven years after the Church is taken out of the earth in the Rapture to meet the Lord in the clouds. The next great event is called the Second Advent, when Jesus Christ returns to the earth with His Bride, the blessed ones who were taken up in the first resurrection, or Rapture (Revelation 20:6). At that time, God will judge the earth, baptizing it with fire.

Some say that the fire refers to the effects of

an atomic weapon destroying the earth, but that is not true! God is going to do it all by Himself. After that, He will begin the one thousand-year Millennial Reign. It will be a brand-new earth, brand-new heaven, and a brand-new, perfect environment at the start.

In Revelation 20:1, at the end of the Millennial Reign, John saw an angel (Jesus Christ) come down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit. According to Revelation 1:18, He held the keys to *hell* and *death*: first ‘hell’, where the souls of the dead were sent (and remember, the soul never dies), then ‘death’, where the body is held. Because God is no respecter of persons, Jesus Christ allows Satan to be let loose for a little while at the end of His perfect reign on earth. He does this to test the volition of those born during the Millennium to see what they will do and how they will choose toward the One who is reigning on the Throne.

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10). When Jesus Christ laid hold of him, He called Satan “the dragon” because of his cruel leadership, “the old serpent” because

of his treachery, and “the devil” because he went out to deceive the world. As “Satan,” he is his own attorney, out on appeal, as he has been since he was sentenced at the start of human history.

The devil will be cast into the lake of fire and *brimstone*, which represents the degrees of torment and the singular punishment he will suffer in hell for all of eternity.

### ***Let God Be the Judge***

Matthew 7:1-5 declares that the measure we judge will be the measure that judgment will come back on us. And in Romans 2:1, in the measure we judge, we condemn ourselves. The same principle applies for Satan and his judgment in hell.

As the accuser of the brethren who accuses us day and night, Satan will receive from God the judgments for what he accused us of. Even if we were guilty, God’s perfect justice always comes back on the accuser because of the first great judgment—our sins on His body!

This is why I never listen to an evil report unless the one being spoken of is present, and then, only if it is a sin that affects me and needs to be dealt with one-on-one for the sake of restoration. Though Christ met the judgment for

our sins, we will be chastised for other people's sins—sins that we never committed—just because we judge others and live in shocking pride that refuses to confess judging as sin.

Please understand that there is a major difference between using biblical discernment and judging with a spirit of accusation. The law was given that every mouth may be closed (Romans 3:19). First Corinthians 4:5 says to judge nothing until the time comes, when God will bring to light the motives of the heart; then, everyone shall have praise for God.

### ***The Bema Seat Judgment***

The next major judgment will take place at the Bema Seat, directly after the Rapture and before the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, when the Father gives us to His Son to be the Bride of Christ for all of eternity (Revelation 19:7-11). At the Bema Seat, pastors will introduce and give account of all the people they pastored (1 Corinthians 11:2; Hebrews 13:17). Then, one by one, every born-again believer will give an account of himself personally, before God (Romans 14:12). Every man's work will be manifested, and there will be no excuses in the light of perfect justice.

The Word speaks so clearly about this judgment in 2 Corinthians 5:10. *What we do with what we have received in this life matters.* How we build will determine the rewards we receive at the Bema Seat. According to 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, there is no other foundation for this life but Jesus Christ. We build upon that foundation with gold, silver, and precious stones which will be added to our account for eternity, or we build with wood, hay, and stubble which will be destroyed by fire when tested, leaving us saved, “yet so as by fire.”\*

### ***The Judgment of Angels***

In our new capacity as the Bride of Christ, our rewards will include authority delegated to faithful ones who will rule over cities and nations. “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?...Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” (1 Corinthians 6:2-3).

Think of it—the church at Corinth, with all the carnality and no grounds for unity, will be used to judge the world with Christ on the throne, and they will also judge angels! That will be an astounding experience for any of us. With brand-new glorified bodies, the degrees of glory

will vary, depending on how positive people were in their response toward Christ when placed under pressure.

Then in Revelation 20:4, the stage is set as these saints reign with Christ in judgment. The ultimate triumph is found in Revelation 20:8-10, when the devil is cast down for the final time into the lake of fire and the judgments are heaped upon him in the most scorching degrees of brimstone.

*\*Read The Bema Seat: Presented in Joy or Grief? by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1996.*



## Chapter Two

# THE FINAL JUDGMENT

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away....” Then, ransomed believers will witness what is perhaps the most distressing scene in all of eternity: “...and there was found *no place for them*” (Revelation 20:11).

Some people will be seeing brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, teenagers, friends, and neighbors who never were saved. Some may have made professions but they never got beyond a presalvation experience.\*

There will be multitudes of religious people, multitudes of churchgoers who will not find a place to stand before the great White Throne. We know that God will always hear the cry of the humble (Psalm 9:12) and will revive the spirit of the humble and the heart of the contrite ones (Isaiah 57:15). “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast

up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked” (Isaiah 57:20-21).

It is a great white throne. Now, picture the scene carefully: A battle has raged throughout time, but now we see the end of time.

A study of ancient history reveals that when battles were won by great nations, there was always a day set aside when all of the officers and soldiers who fought in the battle (commissioned and non-commissioned) would stand in special uniforms that heralded their victory. The leaders of the defeated army and all of the soldiers under them were forced to march in humiliation for hours as the victors looked on.

At the White Throne Judgment, before the final judgment of Satan, the devil and all of the demonic powers under him will be forced to march before Jesus Christ and the Church. After Satan and his angels are cast into hell, all of the rebellious crowd will be made to march before Jesus Christ and the Church Age believers. They will parade in the humiliation of defeat because they rejected the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only provision for their sin.

*“I saw a great white throne...and there was no place found for them.”*

## ***Two Books***

Notice this next verse, “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Revelation 20:12).

Remember, the unlimited atonement means that Jesus Christ knows the name of everybody who has ever lived on the earth, and every name was entered in the Book of Life. The principle here is that Jesus Christ was in His humanity, not imputing the world’s trespasses to them (2 Corinthians 5:19), dying “for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2). The sins of every man, woman, and child were paid for on Calvary because of an agreement among the Trinity in eternity past. Therefore, every name could legally be entered into the Book of Life, but the names in that book could also be blotted out (Exodus 32:32-33).

Here is the good news: The moment a sinner turns to Christ and accepts the covering of the precious blood of the Savior, his name is entered into the Lamb’s Book of Life (Revelation 21:27;

13:8). And the names entered into the Lamb's Book can *never* be blotted out or removed in any way, for any reason.

But for those whose names were listed only once and later blotted out, though their sins were paid for, *they will go to hell.*

### ***The Defeated Tormentor in a Bottomless Pit***

The White Throne Judgment will be the most shocking, unbelievable event in all of history. Hell has already been stirred up from beneath. The chiefs of the earth and the kings of the nations will be there. The prophet Isaiah paints the picture:

“Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

“All they shall speak and say unto thee, *Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?*

*“Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.*

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down

to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

“Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

*“They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?” (Isaiah 14:9-17).*

The people who now face eternity in hell will look upon the deceiver and accuser of the world with disgust and unbelief as they say to Satan, “Are *you* as weak as we are?” For all of eternity he will suffer the most indescribable torment, uttering noises yet with no relief, and the “worm,” or the conscience, unquenched, will always relive the terror of the final defeat.

### ***It Would Change Our Lives...***

Consider the spiritual analogy Jesus reiterated with such fervency in Mark 9:43-48: “And if

thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, *into the fire that never shall be quenched*:

*“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*

“And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into *the fire that never shall be quenched*:

*“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*

“And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

*“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”*

Over and over, the Lord cries out a warning. The fire is not quenched; the worm never dies. He is speaking of the memory, the conscience, the unmet desires that will plague people without relief—and they are all under Satan.

In Isaiah 5:14: *“Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.”*

Hell keeps enlarging itself. Do you see this? Hell is a prepared place for unprepared people! According to John 3:16, God never intended that any should perish in the lake of fire, which was originally prepared for Satan and his angels. Yet for everyone who rejects salvation, hell must expand its capacity.

If Christians truly believed this, it would change everything. It would change our prayer life. It would change our conversation. It would change our motivation to evangelize.

Heaven—the precious place where the redeemed will spend eternity—is upwards. But hell is described several times in Revelation as a bottomless pit. Of all of the fears that disturb people, the most common is the fear of falling. Imagine the dreadfulness of falling and falling, alone and in utter darkness, always anticipating a devastating and crushing end, and yet unending *and with no way out*. This will be reality for people we know.

Picture a mother, saved; a father, lost; a daughter, saved; a son, lost. Seated in the grandstands around the great white throne, all of the saved will be there with glorified bodies. Those who died without accepting the Savior will be judged according to their works. One by one

they will be brought before His throne for the final judgment. He will bring their souls out of hell and their bodies out of the grave, and He will give them bodies that will remain in hell forever. "Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

Death and hell are together now. For the first time, the bodies are united with the souls, so designed to live forever in the lake of fire. But they are not in the lake of fire right now. (Though when they are, their place in the lake of fire will reveal the degrees of their punishment. And Satan will always occupy the lowest place.) These condemned ones are struggling to find an even place as they face the awesome throne of God, "...and there was no place found for them."

*\*Read Salvation: Profession or Possession?, by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1997*



### *Chapter Three*

## PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY TO PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

How would you feel if you were that mother or daughter seeing your loved ones for the last time, knowing where they will suffer for all of eternity? Would you be careless about television? Would you be careless about allowing filthy books in the home? Would you be careless about swearing as a Christian? *Would you?* And all of a sudden, for the last time ever, you see your son, and you see your husband, you see your neighbor, and they will look upon you.

Remember that the Word of God says in Revelation 4:2 that the throne was in heaven. Now the throne is on earth. Saved believers will be in the grandstands as they witness the White Throne Judgment. This scene is found in Revelation 20, where they have been reigning with Christ for one thousand years (if, indeed, they do reign with Him.)

What will it be like?

What will it be like for the man who never got beyond a presalvation experience? He may be one who goes to church regularly—a good evangelical church. He may have become immoral and left his wife. He is cocky, arrogant, yet he still goes to church to appease his conscience. He consistently lives in immorality, yet he *thinks* he is saved.

Although the Bible clearly teaches eternal security, the Word of God gives no guarantee to the conscience of one who deliberately chooses to live in sin. If he is not experiencing degrees of chastisement (which will ultimately lead to either repentance or being taken home early), then that person has no assurance of salvation.

Suddenly, the reason that he didn't communicate a good attitude, the reason he lived in immorality is revealed: his profession was limited to presalvation acknowledgment of the truth without inward transformation. God took away what he *seemed* to have (Luke 8:18). And now, here he is, a presalvation believer (Hebrews 10) being judged at the White Throne Judgment with no excuses.

Do you think there will be screams? Can you imagine one terrifying scream after another? Oh,

yes, there will be crying out such as human ears have never heard.

A whole lifetime will play before us. And as lost loved ones are being cast down into the lake of fire, Christians will be, as it were, in the grandstand, knowing that *this* is the last look. There will be no more words, ever. In Revelation 21:4, those thoughts will be the last thoughts. God is going to wipe away every painful thought so heaven can really be heaven, and all the former things will be wiped away.

The thing I envision that makes me weep more than anything is the sight of lost teenagers. As a pastor, I can often see things from the pulpit: teens coming in late and behaving with such arrogance. I see adults asking them to be quiet and they hurl back sarcastic words and gestures.

I know we have many young people in our church who are beautifully saved and they are doing well. But we must be so certain that they are not living in presalvation professions, where they go to church just to please their parents. Of course they need to go to church, but they also need to be sure they are born again.

I can't imagine seeing a group of teenagers cast into hell. But you can be very certain of this: There is an age of accountability that is based on

intellectual capacity, maturity, and opportunity. Very young people will stand before God in the final judgment. Teenagers will go to hell.

### ***What Do You Really Believe?***

Think of some of the scenes that will play before us in the future. A father who saw his whole family get saved, but he never accepted Christ. A young man who comes to church but is secretly an alcoholic. He will not stop drinking, he lies, he will not care for his family, and there is no evidence that he has ever turned from the power of sin unto God. There should at least be some indication of lifestyle changes, even though he may have to use rebound as he grows in a process. There should be something in his heart that keeps him from that sin.

Then think of the proud woman who is wrapped up in the fashions of this world, arrogant and indifferent toward what the Word of God says about the assembly, prayer, humility, meekness, kindness, and genuine spirituality. She keeps putting off getting serious with God, and she would rather go shopping than go to church. She makes it very clear that she will go when she wants to.

These attitudes reveal that there is no com-

mitment to the Cross, no commitment to love, no commitment to obedience, and no commitment to grace. Some of those people *are saved*, and they will be in the grandstands viewing the White Throne Judgment. But as they look on, they will see the opportunities God gave them that they never took seriously.

Many will see the lost opportunities for potential fruit. *If only* they had spent time on their knees. *If only* they had cried out for the lost, “God, life is *so short!* (1 Corinthians 7:29). Oh God, please use me, and please help me. Please give me the love, the discernment, the sensitivity that I must have. I truly want to be occupied until You come. I want to glorify *You*, Lord, with maximum glorification.”

To be sure, there will be buckets of tears shed by the redeemed who look upon this scene at the great White Throne Judgment. But perhaps many of those tears will be because we know we were not faithful witnesses.

Recently I drove around my neighborhood with another pastor and his wife. In front of every street and every single house in our entire area, we prayed, “Oh God, maybe some of them are saved, and we thank God if they are. Bless them! But if they are not, we are responsible to

at least pray for them and do what we can before it's too late."

The end of time is nearer now than it has ever been. The orthodox Jews believe that the six days of creation relate to six thousand years of time on earth before the Lord comes to reign on the "seventh day," or the final one thousand years. At that time, Israel will be God's client nation, and they will finally have rest in the Lord.

Second Peter 3:8 says, "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." Hosea 6:2 says that the Lord will come back for Israel after two days and they will live in His sight for one day. It is now nearly two thousand years since Calvary, and according to Isaiah 65 and 66, Israel will regain her client nation status during the Millennial Reign.

As we see this and begin to understand with what clarity the Lord speaks, this message should motivate us. We should be motivated with the stewardship of grace and faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4), daily commitment to the Cross, resurrection power to glorify God, presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice. Is this our belief system?

We need to ask ourselves, "What do I really

believe?”

### ***When Truth Spoke from the Flames***

Remember that Revelation 20:14 said, “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire,” meaning the soul and the body united will live together forever and ever. In Revelation 19:20, the beast and the false prophet “both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone,” and they “shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10b). Do you get the picture? One thousand years later, they were still being tormented.

Is it any wonder that the rich man who died without Christ, said of the beggar who died in the Lord, “Send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for *I am tormented in this flame*”? Is it any wonder that he prayed, “Send him to my father’s house: for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, *lest they also come into this place of torment*”? Is it any wonder? Luke 16:19-31 is a true account, it is not a parable.

The Bible has two hundred and thirty-two road signs to hell. Heaven is mentioned eighty-six times. Is it any wonder? Would Christ lie?

But here is a beautiful promise for believers.

“In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve” (Jeremiah 50:20). Thank God! There is no record book of our sins. Thank God, we are saved by grace; we won’t have to face that judgment.

Don’t allow secret pride to creep in; prepare your heart to be pure. You see, the Bible is *real*. It is the Word of God. The time is very short (Revelation 12:11-12), and we are exhorted to redeem the time because the days are very evil (Ephesians 5:16). And because this is true, even if we have no strength, God will help us. “O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; *neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee*” (2 Chronicles 20:12).

We need a fresh approach, a new kind of seriousness, a new kind of commitment. We need to allow the precious Holy Spirit to break down the walls of fear and insecurity. Most of all, we need to break down the walls of pride. There are twenty-seven kinds of pride, and we need God to break us so the Holy Spirit will unite our hearts as cells in the local organism to be His



Body, the fullness of God on earth.

Thank God for the faithful ones. Thank God for the many who love God deeply. Let's pray for one another fervently as we pray for our city, for our nation, and for the lost. The problem isn't with the leadership of the government. The problem is that the Church doesn't have the proper power. God uses political leaders to humble us and reveal to us that we are not taking our place as the poor wise man who delivered the city (Ecclesiastes 9:14-18).

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

One soul is worth more than all the world. Let each of us allow this truth to motivate us as the love of Christ constrains us. The greatest enemy to humility is pride. The greatest enemy to obedience is unknown pride.

We need to become broken and meek. Let's seek God's face, receive the power of love, and go forward in the joy of the Lord, doing whatever we can to keep precious souls from the White Throne Judgment.

## CONCLUSION

*Precious heavenly Father, that day will come when we will say our final good-byes. Many of us have already said good-bye to our mothers and fathers. I said good-bye to my first wife, my sister, my mother, my father, brothers, scores of loved ones. In almost every case, we remember their last words. For my mother, it was, "I love you so much," as she squeezed my hand. For my first wife, it was "You are a king," and I said, "You are a queen."*

*Last words. Last looks. Last thoughts. We will meet those people in heaven. But we are at a place now where the details of life and the pride of life must not prevent us from having the most effective and committed lives unto you as soul winners. Give us Your heart for the lost. Let us have the reality of this vision—the great White Throne—ever before us, always with a heart of thanks for your provision. Amen.*