

# REVELATION 22:12-15

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# REVELATION 22:12-15

## OPENING PRAYER

*After a few moments of private prayer, I will pray out loud.*



*Thank You, Father for Your incomparable policy of grace and Your matchless love. Thank You for providing the way of salvation and for the equal privileges and opportunities believers have to live within Your plan. We pray that Your Spirit will take the things we examine and make them useful in our lives. Thank You Father for young people who love Your Word and desire to study it. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

## REVIEW

### Vocabulary

#### **The New Jerusalem.**

*Definition: God's perfect, Golden City, Jerusalem suspended and equipped with the ability to ascend and descend between heaven and earth for eternity.*

#### **The Books of Works.**

*Definition: An enormous set of books containing the record of all human good*

#### **Human Good.**

*Definition: Work performed in the energy of the flesh in an attempt to gain God's approval apart from the power of the Holy Spirit or trusting God's Son as substitute sin bearer.*

#### **The Book of Life.**

*Definition: The record of every human being. Names of those who die without trusting Jesus Christ are blotted out at physical death (Psalm 69:28).*



#### **The Lamb's Book of Life.**

*Definition: Since unbeliever's names have been blotted out, the record, at the end of time contains only the names of those who trusted the Lamb of God, thus it is truly, "The Lamb's Book of Life".*

## Summary

*In addition to the description of the New Jerusalem and the two sets of books, John learned the principle that no matter how spectacular members of the angelic realm appear, only God is worthy of worship. John is commanded not to seal up the words of his prophecy, because time is drawing near for the book of Revelation to be useful and relevant to God's people.*

# I. SPECTACULAR DETAILS

## A. SPECTACULAR WORD AND ANNOUNCEMENT

REVELATION 22:12 Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.



### 1. SPECTACULAR WORD

*Display the symbol or write the word, "BEHOLD!" on the board in large letters.*



The word "Behold" promises something spectacular. It introduces a final impressive subject; pledges a coming, sensational event and demands strict attention to both matters. What follows should be awesome.

### 2. SPECTACULAR ANNOUNCEMENT

a. After gaining attention with the word "Behold", Jesus makes a startling announcement about a subject dear to His heart. Jesus emphasizes the thought He wishes to leave uppermost in the minds of His children. What is that critical thought? It is that **He is coming back**.

*Display the Rapture symbol.*



THE PROMISE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COMING BACK  
IS CERTAINLY SPECTACULAR!

b. Jesus speaks of the Rapture of the Church: that time when He returns to take His bride home with Him. The subject is so important that, before He left earth, Jesus established a special ceremony to help His children remember. **He wants His children to consistently meet with each other and observe this ceremony (HEBREWS 10:25)**. He wants His children to look to the past and never forget His sacrificial payment for sin. At the same time, our Savior wants His children to look forward to His return. He directed His children to faithfully observe a special memorial ceremony. He said keep doing it "until He comes". Jesus did not **suggest** His children do this. He gave them a **direct command**. I Corinthians quotes Him, He says...



I CORINTHIANS 11:24...**do this** in remembrance of Me.



c. And Jesus Christ told His children He wanted them to do it because...



**I CORINTHIANS 11:26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (they proclaim it to each other and to others who know they are doing this).

*Display symbols for the bread and cup for communion.*



**THE LORD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO EAGERLY WATCH FOR HIS RETURN.**

*\*Mrs. Ruth Munce described the attitude Jesus desires from His children as "standing on tiptoe in happy anticipation of His arrival".  
\*Her Credentials: Beloved Bible Teacher, Author: Footnotes, Pilgrim Bible, Missionary to Africa, Daughter of Author, Grace Livingston Hill.*

### 3. "QUICKLY"

a. Three times in the final words of the closing chapter Jesus says "**I am coming quickly.**"



The first time is in VERSE 7. The second time is in VERSE 12 and the third time is in VERSE 20. Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ promised He was coming back quickly, but He has not returned. Does this mean our Lord has broken His promise? We need to look at the exact meaning of "quickly".

b. The meaning of the word "quickly".

1) Quickly doesn't always mean "soon". In this case it means "with great speed". Jesus will return suddenly and without warning.

**I CORINTHIANS 15:52** ...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead in Christ will be raised imperishable, and we shall all be changed.



*Display a trumpet Symbol...also an eye with a twinkle.*

2) The "twinkling of an eye" is that fraction of time when a light beam hits the eye and the pupil reflects a responsive sparkle. It is quicker than a wink.

3) Jesus Christ will return “quickly” at the Rapture and receive believers unto Himself. How proud He will be when He takes His waiting people home.

4) The Rapture is the next event on God’s Calendar. The catching away of the Church happens **suddenly, without warning**.

**I THESSALONIANS 4:15-18** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we (*believers*) who are alive and remain (*on earth*) until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep (*believers who have already died*). For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (*Raptured, carried away*) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.



5) Unbelievers have every opportunity to trust Jesus Christ in time but at the Rapture, time is up. Unbelievers are left behind. Only believers participate in this event.

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## B. SPECTACULAR AWARDS AND REWARDS

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*REVELATION 22:12 is the memory verse. Two words were addressed in the first part of that verse: “behold” and “quickly”. Now, another word is examined. Look at Revelation 22:12 again.*




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### 1. MEMORY VERSE

**REVELATION 22:12** Behold, I am coming quickly, (*Jesus is speaking*) and My reward (*here is the new word we will look at*) is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.




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### 2. PARAPHRASE

*Jesus uses a spectacular attention-getting word as He informs His children that when He returns to receive them to Himself, it will happen in a split second (the “twinkling” of an eye). The believer will*

*be blessed or rewarded by receiving those who have chosen to love him and He will recognize them with special awards based on the works they have permitted Him to accomplish through them.*

### 3. AWARDS AND REWARDS

#### a. Two different rewards.

*Display the Rapture symbol.*

1) First, there is the reward belonging to Jesus. Having His bride with Him is a reward to Jesus Christ. Jesus says “My reward is with Me” (**REVELATION 22:12**). Members of His Church are caught up **with** Jesus Christ at the Rapture and they return to earth **with** Him at the Second Advent. Those who believe (trust, have faith) in Jesus Christ (**JOHN 3:16**) during the Church Age are His children and members of His Church.

2) Second, there are the rewards Christ presents to Church Age believers. At the Rapture, Church Age believers receive resurrection bodies and accompany Jesus Christ to His Father’s house. They appear before the Bema Seat, are **evaluated and awarded decorations**. Both Jesus and His children receive “rewards”. **Believers are rewards to Jesus and Jesus gives rewards to his children at the Bema Seat.**

*Display symbol for Bema Seat with emphasis on Christ’s return and the presentation of decorations.*

3) Believers of the Church Age become Christ’s bride. Jesus will say to His Father, “Here is My bride, Father. I am proud to present her to You.” He will say “These are the ones you presented to me (**COLOSSIANS 1:22**). Now, I am presenting them to you. Not one of those you gave me has been lost” (**JOHN 17:12**).

4) Church Age believers’ evaluation lasts seven years. Believers’ deeds are examined and awards presented on the basis of Bible Truth stored in their souls. The success of His children delights Jesus, reflects His glory and fills Him with satisfaction. A verse in the second chapter of **REVELATION** speaks of this event.

**REVELATION 2:23c ...all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.**

2) The word “Deeds” refers to Divine good deeds, done in the power of the Holy Spirit. God has given all judgment to His Son, so, Jesus Christ is the One making decisions concerning each believer’s awards (**II CORINTHIANS 5:10; I JOHN 4:17**).



3) The One with the nail-scarred hands and the brow once crowned with thorns, presents awards to those who are victorious in living the virtuous Spiritual life **in God’s plan** while on earth (**GALATIANS 2:20**).



*Display the Bema Seat symbol showing silver, gold and precious stones compared to wood hay and straw. Display some crown symbols, also. I Cor. 3:10– 4:5; 9:27.*



#### **b. All Church Age believers have the same opportunity.**

1) All Church Age believers have a chance to receive awards. Every believer has a choice. Every believer has an equal opportunity to receive awards by living in the power of the Holy Spirit after salvation, but some will not take advantage of the opportunity.

*Display the symbol with volition as the decider choosing whether to live in the Spirit or in the flesh (I Thess. 5:19; Eph 4:30; Gal 5:16; II Cor. 13:14; Rom.15:19; Luke 1:15).*




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## **4. AWARD GIVER’S CREDENTIALS**

a. Credentials document a person’s identity, accomplishments and position. In order to be certain His children are aware that the One who died in their place and took their judgment is the same One handing out awards, Jesus lists a few of His credentials.

**REVELATION 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**



*Display “Alpha – Omega” ... “First and last”, “The beginning and the end” symbols.*



b. With Verse 13, Jesus reminds His children that He is God: He is everything worth talking about and there never was a time when He did not exist. His credentials echo words from two verses in Revelation, Chapter 1.

**REVELATION 1:8 I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was**



and who is to come, the Almighty.

REVELATION 1:17 And when I (*John*) saw Him (*an angel*), I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He (*Jesus*) laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid, I (*Jesus*) am the first and the last...

*Display "right hand of authority, patting John's back" symbol.*



## 5. BLESSINGS WITH AWARDS

a. Seven blessings are scattered through the book of Revelation. The first appears in **REVELATION 1**. The final blessing is in Chapter 22.

*Review as necessary. Perhaps the picture symbols for the seven blessings will suffice. Be sure students understand that the seven blessings teach the primary importance of God's child studying God's Word.*

b. Seven blessings are promised to believers by the One from whom all blessings flow. Again, we are reminded of Chapter one where the first blessing appeared. Look at the first and seventh blessings.

### 1) First Blessing.

REVELATION 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

### 2) Seventh Blessing.

REVELATION 22:14 Blessed are they who also wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

*Display the Seventh Blessing symbol (enlarged slightly more than others).*

*Display the tree of life and gates into the city symbols.*

*Call attention to the seventh blessing and make a paraphrase by reviewing the following phrases from REVELATION 22:14.*

### c. The first phrase "wash their robes".

1) "**Washing robes**" is synonymous for confessing sin, thus maintaining righteousness and the control of the Spirit so those who are saved are able to stay in God's plan. Each person is free to choose heaven as his final destination by trusting Christ as personal Savior.



2) Those already saved may choose to live the Spiritual life. How is that done? Follow the Divine solution. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Admit sin to God when it is revealed so you can grow to maturity and be happy throughout life with happiness that does not depend on people or circumstances. **Be willing to allow God to wash your robes.**

3) It is a matter of humility as opposed to arrogance. By agreeing with God about sin, the child of God allows the Father to purify him from all wrongdoing thereby **keeping his robes clean** (I JOHN 1:9; PHILIPPIANS 2:13-15). God does the cleansing. Confession is the Divine solution to sin in the life of God's child. Ignoring sin, making excuses or blaming others is not.

4) The works Christ does through the believer last forever and are recognized at the Bema Seat (I JOHN 3:23, 24).

**GALATIANS 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in (through) me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved (keeps on loving) me and delivered Himself up for me.

**d. The second phrase we need to understand is “that they may have the right to the tree of life”.**

*Display the tree of life Symbol.*

1) A guard was placed at the tree of life after man's fall in the Garden of Eden,

**GENESIS 3:22-24** Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” - therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life (God's rules are not designed to keep man from having fun, but are for man's protection and benefit).





2) Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden to prevent their eating of the tree of life and living forever in a sinful state. A common lie (begun by Satan...still prevalent today) is that God was being mean to withhold the tree of life, on the contrary God loved Adam and Eve and was protecting them. **REVELATION 22 14** promises restoration of that tree in heaven. It will be available to men once again.

3) In eternity, fruit from the tree of life may be eaten by believers with sinless resurrection bodies. Since there will be no need for healing or receiving eternal life in eternity, we can only assume these blessings are for man's pleasure and as reminders of all God has done for us.



**REVELATION 2:7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God (*in the New Jerusalem in eternity*).



*Call attention to the tree of life symbol.*

**e. The phrase “and may enter by the gates into the city” (REVELATION 22:14).**



“Gates into the city” in verse 14 represent entrance into blessings available to heaven's citizens. The fact that the gates are never closed (**REVELATION 21:25**) pictures equal opportunity for entrance into the New Jerusalem. Note, also, that angels guard these gates (**REVELATION 21:12**) just as angels guarded the way to the tree of life in the Garden to keep man away. Could it be that angels stand at the open gates to the New Jerusalem to emphasize God's love in providing access to “whosoever would believe in Him”?




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## 6. SONG: Life Can be Beautiful: Children's Songbook.

*Since we are going back to the first chapter so frequently, it seems fitting to sing one of the songs from the early lessons. It reminds us that life on earth can be beautiful if we stay in God's plan. Words and music are on page 17.*



**a. Eternal life cannot be won, earned or deserved, it is an unspeakably wonderful blessing available only as a gift.**



**EPHESIANS 2:8, 9** For by grace you have been saved, through faith; and that (*salvation is*) not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of

works, that no one should boast.

**JOHN 3:36** He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son *(by believing in him as Savior)* shall not see life...



**b. The alternative to eternal life is the second death or “perishing” (as JOHN 3:16 tells us) or eternal existence in the lake of fire (REVELATION 21:8). LUKE 16:19-24** describes the compartment of torments in the center of the earth where unbelievers await the second death. The lake of fire (a liquid form of lava) is worse than torments and is eternal. It is beyond the power of words to describe.




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## 7. TWO DIVISIONS OF PEOPLE

**a. Going along with the two destinations are two kinds of people: those on the inside and those on the outside of heaven.**

**REVELATION 22:15** Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.



**b. First, there are the dogs, those who are “outside”.**

1) The word “dogs” is not a reference to animals, but to people who think and act like animals. They are unbelievers who have chosen Satan’s “side” which is “outside” of God’s heaven. We heard about them before.

**REVELATION 21:8** But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the Lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.



2) “Dogs” (unbelievers) will be filthy forever and cannot live in heaven with perfect, pure God.

FILTHY DOGS ARE LOST BECAUSE THEY **WILL NOT** COME TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

**c. Second, there are those on the “inside”.**

People on the inside of heaven are God's children by faith in Jesus Christ. They also are referred to as bond-servants, the Church, members of God's Royal Family, the Bride of Christ, Christians and Believers.



**GALATIANS 3:26** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

#### d. Gospel Message.



1) This study of Revelation began by showing that Jesus Christ paid the price for sin and removed the barrier between sinful man and his Creator God. Man was helpless to remove that barrier, but the wall of sin came tumbling down when Jesus Christ died on the cross as our substitute and took the punishment we deserve. Those who trust Jesus will be "inside" heaven with Jesus, forever, because they know He paid for their sins (*"The Cross Removes the Barrier" presentation is in Teacher's Appendix*).



*Display symbol for heaven.*

2) Each individual is free to choose heaven as his final destination. The fact that salvation is available to all is an equal privilege provided by God for anyone who will take advantage of the opportunity. Everyone who trusts Jesus Christ as Savior will be saved. If you have already trusted Christ and you are sure of your eternal destiny, choose now to live within God's plan while you are on earth. Glorify God with your life until He returns. **You will never be sorry.**



*Display Spiritual life of Church Age symbol.*

3) Fellowship with the Holy Spirit enables believers to possess super abundant inner happiness throughout life: the happiness available only to the child of God in fellowship. It is happiness that does not depend on people or circumstances, but "fills the soul in the middle of the most distressing circumstances and the most bitter environment".  
(Billy Graham)

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## 8. MORE INFO ON DESTINATIONS



**REVELATION 20:10-13** And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false

prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it (*Jesus Christ*), from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead (*unbelievers*), the great and the small (*from all walks of life*), standing before the throne, and books were opened (*these are the books of works: the good deeds of men, done in their own strength...without God's power*); and another book was opened, which is the book of life (*the record of all who believe in Christ*); and the dead (*unbelievers*) were judged from the things which were written in the books (*ie: the books of works*), according to their deeds (*human good deeds...are not enough*).



**a. These verses describe the judgment of unbelievers at the end of the Millennium.** Because unbelievers have rejected the one who died in their place and have elected to stand on their own good deeds, God allows them to do just that. Sin is not the issue.

**b. The issue in each one's final destination is what they believed about Jesus Christ.** If they have not trusted Christ as Savior, though their sins are paid for, they do not have eternal life and though His righteousness was available to them, they turned it down.

EVERY MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RACE  
EXISTS FOREVER IN ONE PLACE OR THE OTHER.

**c. God desires heaven as the destination for all (MATTHEW 18:14).** Heaven is God's preferred destination for all mankind and He did all the work to make it available (**JOHN 3:16**). The child of God goes to live in heaven with God, the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Holy angels and all their believing loved ones and friends...forever!



**d. The alternate destination is the lake of fire.**

A chart outlining "Operation Footstool" was introduced to older students in the lesson on REVELATION 19:17-21. It helps explain the importance of Christ bringing everything into submission. It could be referred to again, here and explained in more detail. If teacher decides to do this, students should be advised to look back at that lesson or a large classroom chart may be used.



1) Those who refuse to trust Jesus Christ go to the lake of fire to suffer the second death with Satan, the Antichrist, the False Prophet, Satan's demon angels (**MATTHEW 25:41**) and all unbelievers of all time... forever **REVELATION 20:10-13**).



*In closing, be absolutely sure students understand the gravity of rejecting Jesus Christ. At physical death or when time is over man's destiny becomes permanent. No one knows when time is up for each person, but we do know the right time to trust Jesus Christ as Savior is now. Every human being will spend eternity in a resurrection body either in heaven with eternal life or in hell which is eternal death (the second death).*

*Close class with the following emphatic statement...*

HEAVEN IS AN "EITHER - OR" DESTINATION. THERE IS NO IN BETWEEN. EVERY HUMAN BEING WHO HAS EVER LIVED ENDS UP IN HEAVEN OR IN THE LAKE OF FIRE.

### **IT IS AN INDIVIDUAL CHOICE.**

#### CLOSING PRAYER



*Dear heavenly Father, Thank you, for making heaven possible as a final destination. If it were not for Jesus Christ we would all go to the lake of fire, but because of His matchless love, those of us who believe He died for our sins and choose to love Him in return may live with You, forever. We owe you our eternal gratitude. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

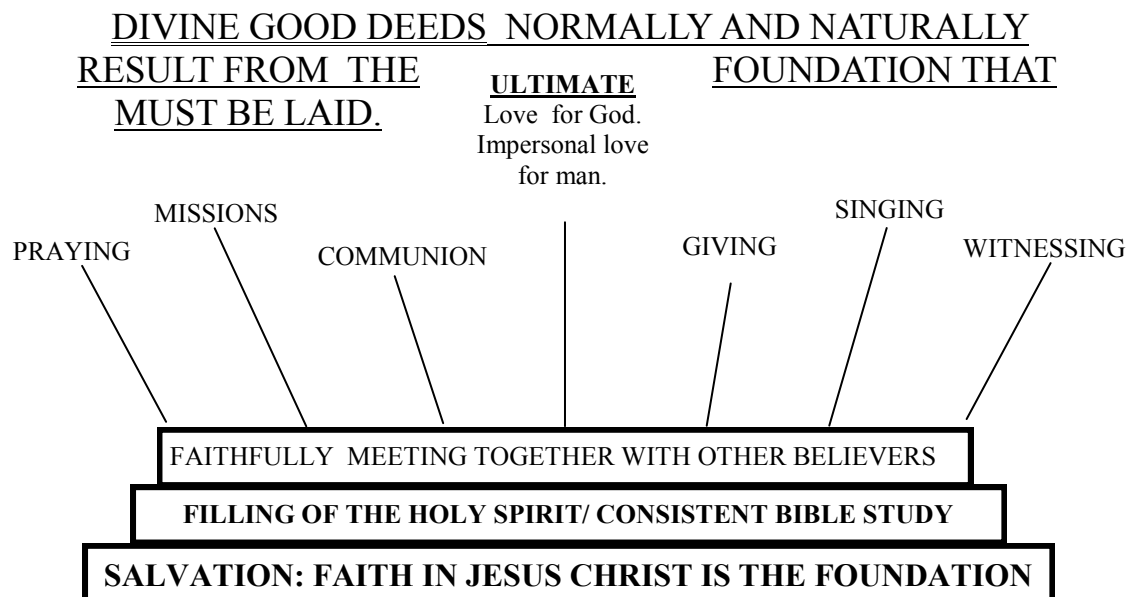
**HELPFUL NOTES FOR TEACHER'S USE (DURING CLASS OR REVIEW IF TEACHER CHOOSES.)**

*The last session in "REVELATION IS NOT A MYSTERY" is approximately two sessions away. There is no review in the final lesson. Some topics may require additional attention (especially for younger students) in order to emphasize important points and principles. For this reason, teacher might encourage questions in these final meetings to be sure students understand what has been taught. Information for doing this follows.*

**1. Salvation** - *Being removed from a place of danger to a place of safety; being removed from the danger of permanent residence in the lake of fire to permanent residence in heaven after physical death. Salvation is always by faith, alone, in Christ, alone. And cannot be earned or deserved.*

**2. Reward** - *Awards or recognition for service. Salvation from the Lake of Fire is freely given by God to those who believe Jesus died for their sins. Rewards are given to God's children on the basis of the Word of God in their soul resulting in Divine works.*

*Encourage discussion on how to live the spiritual life: Salvation, Study of Bible Doctrine, consistent confession of sin, filling of the H.S., faithful response to the Word. (JOHN 4:24; JOHN 15:1-11; I CORINTHIANS 7:20-24; GALATIANS 5:16; EPHESIANS 5:18; TITUS 3:1-15; II PETER 3:18). Display the diagram showing all Divine works originate from the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, the filling of the Holy Spirit for power, study of God's Word for knowledge and sharing with other believers (study and spiritual gifts) in order to support each other and grow in love for God and your fellow man.*



3. Bema Seat - Called the "Judgment Seat of Christ" (II CORINTHIANS 5:10), it is not for judgment at all, but the place for evaluating believer's deeds. Divine works are rewarded. Human works are destroyed by fire. When believers reject God's Word and/or refuse to confess sins after salvation, they also reject God's plan for their lives. They miss the opportunity to receive heavenly decorations and awards.

Display visuals comparing destruction by fire of wood hay and straw to the lasting works of Gold, Silver and Precious Stones.

4. "Wash your robes" - (As covered in this session) A synonym for believers' staying in fellowship by keeping sins confessed, thus allowing God to "cleanse them from all unrighteousness" (I JOHN 1:9, visuals for this memory verse are helpful).

Believers "Wash their robes" by agreeing with God about their personal sins (I JOHN 1:9) and having sins cleansed or wiped away. They maintain virtue and righteousness (remain pure) and God is able to direct their lives. Thus, they live in God's plan, will and purpose. I JOHN 1:9 is not a license to sin, but a permit enabling God's children to continue to practice.

# LIFE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL

Margaret A. Johnson Popular song by same name

Flute

1. Life can be beau - ti - ful. How do I  
2. Life can be won - der - ful, Ha - ven't you

4  
know? Right here in God's Own Word  
heard? If we who have God's Life,

7  
He - tells me so. We can have  
stu - dy His Word. Then all our

10  
hap - pi - ness an - y time at all.  
earth - ly days can be made se cure,

13  
1.  
With God we'll have suc - cess though our cas - tles

16  
2.  
fall. and life will be beau - ti - ful for sure.