

UNION FOURSQUARE GOSPEL CHURCH, ELIZABETH, NJ

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE – NOV. 17, 2020.

THEME: Be Ready – Matt.24: 42 – 44; Mark 13: 33 – 37.

TOPIC: Reward or Punishment?

TEXTS: Luke 12: 35 – 48; Matt. 25: 14 v- 30; Rev.22: 12.

In the context of earlier teachings and preaching from this month's theme, "Be Ready", the concept of watchfulness does not connote idleness, rather a faithful discharge of one's responsibilities. The wise use of God-given resources – time, money, talents, and abilities entrusted to us results in greater opportunities (Matt.25: 23; Luke 12: 43 – 44), while their neglect results not only in the loss of more opportunities, but of that which was entrusted to us (Matt. 25: 28 – 30). This implies that getting ready for the Lord's second coming, believers must occupy, faithfully using the resources. When the Master returns, He will judge everyone in accordance with the light they have been given (Luke 12: 41 – 48).

1. THE FAITHFUL SHALL BE REWARDED: Luke 12: 42 – 44; Matt.25: 21 – 23; Rev.22: 12.

Those who use the resources entrusted to them faithfully shall "be trusted with more" and "enter into their master's joy" Matt.25: 21, 40; Luke 12: 37; John 14: 1- 3; 1Thess.4: 13 – 17. Different crowns- 1Cor.9: 24 – 25; 2Tim.4:8; Rev.2: 10; 1Pt.5: 1-4; 1Thess.2: 19

Remember, the faithful believers are those who are committed to soul winning (evangelism) - Matt.28: 16 – 20, care for the poor, sick, and the prisoners -Matt.25: 35-36; feed the hungry and thirsty Matt.25: 25; forgive those who wrong them Matt.6: 14-15; love others John 13: 34-35, and care for the church John 21: 17.

2. THE UNFAITHFUL SHALLL BE PUNISHED – Luke 12: 45 – 48; Matt.25:24 – 28.

The unfaithful and lazy servants shall be judged their unbelief, wasting God's resources and opportunities. James 4:17: "Therefore to him who know to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

3. Conclusion: Always remember Jesus, the King of kings comes quickly when everyone will give accounts of what he/she has done on earth Rev. 22: 12. The righteous shall be rewarded, while the wicked shall be judged.