

Four Bible study principles:

1. **The Law of non-contradiction** – Two opposing doctrines, though true, cannot both be true at the same time. They are true for different groups at different times. (Contrast Acts 3:17-21 with Romans 16:25-27. Contrast Romans 4:1-5 with James 2:14-18. Contrast Romans 8:1-2 with James 2:10.) In all three examples, both statements are true, but not to the same group at the same time. Jesus fulfilled the Law (Matthew 5:17). We are not bound to the law because we are in the dispensation of the grace of God where all our trespasses are forgiven.
2. **The Law of trans-dispensational truth** – Some truths are universal, in that they are true in more than one dispensation. Example: The definition of faith is the same regardless of the dispensation. Studying the Bible through the lens of the mystery of the dispensation of the grace of God helps us to understand what the writers of the Old Testament understood to be true, and how it impacts our understanding of the scriptures.
Hebrews 11:1-6, 2 Corinthians 5:7
3. **Paul's letters are the commands of Christ.** 1 Corinthians 14:37
Do we follow what Jesus said before the cross, or what Paul said after the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ? The truth of the matter is: What Paul wrote is what Jesus commanded after his ascension. Galatians 1:1-2:16
4. **A change of dispensation brings a change of administration, and a change of administration brings a change of operation.** Ephesians 3:1-12, Colossians 1:25-29

What does eternity future hold for Church Age believers?

1. **Our vile bodies will be changed!**

Romans 8:22-23 – our adoption will be finalized in the redemption of our bodies.

Ephesians 1:13-14 – the Holy Spirit takes up residence within every believer until the redemption of the purchased possession of our incorruptible bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:49-54 – the redemption of our new bodies occurs at the rapture of all the Church Age saints. This mystery / secret was revealed to Paul who was commanded to share it with us.

Philippians 3:20-21 – we are commanded to look for the imminent return of the Lord, who will change our vile bodies like unto his glorious body. See 1 John 3:1-2 as a trans-dispensational look at the appearing of our Lord.

Colossians 3:1-4 – we must set our affection on things above while we are in this life, and remember that when He appears, we too, will appear with Him in glory!
2 Corinthians 3:17-18 – we shall be changed into the same image from glory to glory, like looking into a mirror.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – we are not to grieve like those who have no hope. The Lord is going to bring the dead in Christ with Him, when he returns to get us at the rapture.

Romans 6:8-9 – if we are dead (to the world) with Him, we shall also live with Him. This helps us to see John 14:1-6 through the lens of the mystery understanding this great trans-dispensational truth. Jesus promised a home in heaven to his disciples, and He promises us a home in heaven, as the body of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Revelation 4:1 – the voice of a trumpet will call unto us and say, “Come up hither...” This event begins our eternity future taking us to heaven for seven years, while the world, and especially the nation of Israel suffers. Revelation 4 & 5 detail events in heaven concerning the Church Age saints.

- **We will judge the world and angels.** 1 Corinthians 6:1-3, Revelation 5:9-10, 19:7-14

We will have some sort of administrative responsibility that is not fully defined in scripture, but we are not called to understand all things at this time, just believe them.

In preparation for our future responsibilities reigning with Christ, we are engaged in spiritual warfare, even though many believers do not understand it or recognize it.

2 Timothy 2:1-4 (See also 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 & Ephesians 6:10-18): Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

The Bible doesn't tell us everything we want to know, but it does tell us everything we need to know.

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- **Our authority to rule and reign with Christ will be bestowed upon us at the judgment seat of Christ.**
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Romans 14:10-12, 1 Corinthians 3:8-15, 2 Corinthians 5:1-11

Right now, in this life, we are responsible to be faithful stewards of the mysteries (the unsearchable riches) given to Paul and revealed to us.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2: Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

2 Timothy 2:15: Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

1 Corinthians 16:13: Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

In summary:

Just as the judgment of the talents, the penny, and the pounds reveals the rewards given to the Old Testament saints and the tribulation saints, and the position of authority they will exercise in the kingdom, the judgments seat of Christ reveals our reward of faithfulness in preparation for whatever we will be doing as spiritual judges, administrators, governors, kings, and priests. All we know is what Scripture does say, not what it does not say. We will judge the world and angels. After the judgment seat of Christ, and after the marriage supper of the Lamb, we will return to the earth with Christ to reign with Him, not in physical matters, because that is given to the 12 apostles and to Israel, as prophesied. Our responsibility will be spiritual and it will be based on the reward we receive. May we all focus on the gold, silver, and precious stones of eternal value based on our faithful stewardship in these last days of the dispensation of the grace of God.

Why is Jesus coming? Steven Hogan put it this way...Jesus is coming to take up the saints (at the rapture), to take out the enemy (through the seal judgments, trumpet judgments, and bowl judgments in Daniel's 70th week, and the final battle of the kingdoms of this world against Messiah King Jesus), and to take over the world (at the 2nd Advent).

Your Fellow Student,
Ken Wooten
Micah 6:8