

Your Coming Life Review

Romans 14:10-12 and 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

August 10, 2025

Highlights from Jim's Time Off

- Pine Cove with the next generation
- Jim and Lisa's "My Texas" tour (Josh Abbott Band)
- New York City
- Churches visited: International Christian Fellowship (Lubbock), Woodsedge Church (Woodlands), Church of the City (NYC)

My July Journal – "60 Reflections After 60 Years"

- **Insight #1** – I did not choose to be born. God chose. And my parents chose. I did not create myself – God created me, and He partnered with my parents.
- **Insight #2** – I am not an accident. God purposed that I be, and He has a purpose for me.
- **Insight #7** – My life is roughly two-thirds over!!
- **Insight #18** – The tribute that my kids gave to me for my 60th birthday is the single best gift (from humans) that I have ever received. Ever.
- **Insight #53** – I want to live my life strategically to glorify God to the max in my coming Life Review (2 Corinth 5:10; 1 Corinth 3:10-15; Rom 14:10-12).

What the Bible Says About Our Life Review and Judgment

- **Romans 14:10-12**
- The Bible clearly identifies two different judgments:
 - (1) **The Great White Throne Judgment** (Revelation 20:11-15) – the judgment of all whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life
 - (2) **The Bema Seat Judgment** (2 Corinthians 5:10) – an accounting of believers before Christ for how we invested our lives here on Earth

The Great White Throne Judgment

- **Revelation 20:11-15** – *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*
- **Hard Truth**: We all deserve to be thrown into the lake of fire!!!
- **Romans 3:23** – *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- **Romans 6:23** – *For the wages of sin is death.*

- **Good News**: Jesus Christ experienced our punishment for us as our substitute so that we would not have to experience the lake of fire!!!!
- **Romans 5:8** – *But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- **1 Peter 2:24** – *He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.*
- **The Gospel**: Those who place their faith in Jesus Christ **bypass** the Great White Throne Judgment!
- **John 5:24** (NASB) – *Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*
- **Important Question**: If you died today, would you experience the Great White Throne Judgment? Have you received Christ's substitutionary atonement on your behalf?
- **Alpha** is a series of sessions on Tuesday nights to help you explore the Christian faith starting September 16. Free dinner and childcare. More info: WhatIsGrace.org/Adults (scroll down to Alpha)

The Bema Seat Judgment

- The "Bema Seat Judgment" gets its name from the Greek word (bema) for "judgment seat" in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Romans 14:10.
- **2 Corinthians 5:10** – *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*
- **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**
- Three observations from 1 Corinthians 3:10-15
 - (1) Eternal life is NOT at stake here (v.15). This is NOT determining whether this person goes to Heaven. Rather, it is determining rewards in Heaven (v.14).
 - (2) Rewards from the Bema Seat Judgment are based on whether one built their life upon things that have **eternal** value or not (as tested by fire). "Wood, hay, straw" (building materials that will NOT survive a fire) represent life investments that have no eternal value. "Gold, silver, precious stones" (building materials that do not burn) represent life investments that have eternal value (vv.12-13).

Building material	Wood, hay, straw	Gold, silver, precious stones
Response to fire	Burns up. Does not last.	Withstands fire. Lasts.
Eternal value	Doesn't count for eternity	Does count for eternity
Major categories of life investment	Things of the world (1 John 2:15-17)	God's Word (1 Peter 1:24-25) People's souls (Matt. 25:46)
Specific examples	Cars, boats, houses Accumulation of money Educational degrees Trophies, positions, titles Fame, popularity	Study/sharing God's Word Talking and listening to God Sharing faith, missions Helping/serving others Spiritual relationships

(3) The foundation of all of our work is Jesus Christ (v.11). Life investments that have eternal value point to Him – not to us. A life of faith in Jesus Christ is what has eternal value!

- **Important Question:** How have you invested your life? Are you building your life with “wood, hay, straw” or “gold, silver, precious stones”? Are you investing your life in what counts for eternity?
- One of the most common elements of near-death experience (NDE) stories is a life review followed by the question: **What did you do with your life? How have you lived a life of love?**

My Application Today – I choose to act today and the rest of my life here on earth preparing for my two final exam questions:

1. **Final Exam Question #1:** “What did you do with **My Son?**”

- **John 1:12** – Yet to as many as received Jesus, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.
- **Revelation 3:20** – Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone opens the door, I will come into him.
- Sample prayer for opening the door of your heart to receive Jesus Christ into your life:

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned against You, and I am sorry. I repent of my sin. Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for my sins and rising from the dead. I believe, and I receive You Jesus into my life. Now, please make me into the new person that You want me to be. I choose to follow You.

2. **Final Exam Question #2:** “What did you do with **the life** that I gave you?” – In preparation for my life review, I want to live a life that counts for eternity; therefore, I choose to...

- ☐ Deny myself, take up my cross daily, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23-25)
- ☐ Invest my life in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others (Acts 1:8)
- ☐ Invest my life in knowing and sharing God’s Word (1 Peter 1:24-25)
- ☐ Love and worship God with everything I am and have (Matthew 22:37-39)
- ☐ Live a life of love (1 Corinthians 13)
- ☐ Invest in relationships starting with my family (1 John 4:7-11)
- ☐ Minister to the poor, the overlooked, and the forgotten (Matthew 25:31-46)
- ☐ Invest my life in the Kingdom of God (Romans 14 – esp. v.17-19)
- ☐ Live a life of mutual edification of other believers (Romans 14:19)
- ☐ Live a life of faith according to my conscience (Romans 14:22-23)
- ☐ Invite my unchurched friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, and school mates to church (John 1:39)
- ☐ Do all of the above with God-directed motives (1 Corinth 4:5).

A Sneak Peek at Our Spiritual Menu Over the Next Several Months

- **"40 Days of Experiencing God Together"** - Super pumped about this House of Prayer for All Nations (Vision 2030) emphasis that will encourage all of us at Grace Fellowship to go hard after God together!!!

40 DAYS OF EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER <i>A Journey to Encounter the Living God Together</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Aug 17	Experiencing God Through Community	Acts 2:42-47
Aug 24	Experiencing God Through His Word	Psalm 19:7-14
Aug 31	Experiencing God Through Prayer	Acts 12:1-19
Sept 7	Experiencing God Through Worship (Jimmy Needham)	Acts 16:16-34
Sept 14	Experiencing God Through Watching and Obeying	John 5:19-20
Sept 21	Experiencing God Through Faith Sharing	Acts 1:6-11
Sept 28	Experiencing God as a Family	Joshua 24:15

- **"Holiness"** - A study of the Book of Leviticus. What!?!?! I think it's going to be really good. Holiness is a good kind of different. Leviticus covers Zinzendorf's favorite Bible verse, shrimp, pigs, the poverty of Mary and Joseph, the Day of Atonement, sex, the verses on our Liberty Bell, the poor, the orphan, the widow, the 7 Jewish festivals (with end times implications), and much more!!! Nadab and Abihu get struck down by the fire of God because they don't understand holiness. We need to understand holiness!!!
- **"Ready"** - a sermon series on the Armor of God
- **"What the Lord Requires of You"** - a study of the Book of Micah
- **"The Shroud of Turin"** – Tour of America will be hosted at Grace Fellowship for eight days from March 22-29, 2026.
- **"God Never Said That"** - a series on common statements that you will not find in the Bible like "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves" and "To Thine Own Self Be True."

Our Decree and Declaration Over the 2025–2026 School Year in West Houston – “Father, we declare that this school year shall not be ordinary. It shall be marked by Your glory, wisdom, protection, and power. Let this academic year be the launching pad for the future leaders, reformers, and revivalists. Let the gates of every school be lifted for the King of Glory to come in, in Jesus glorious and mighty name!”