

A lighthouse with a black and white striped tower stands on a rocky island. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, suggesting sunset or sunrise. In the distance, another island is visible. The foreground shows dark, rocky terrain with some greenery.

My Account Has Been Settled

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. Isaiah 54:10.

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bellinger

The Old account was settled long ago.

There was a time on earth when in the book of Heav'n
An old account was standing for sins yet unforgiv'n;
My name was at the top, and many things below—
I went unto the Keeper, and settled long ago.

1. *Refrain:*

Long ago, long ago,
Yes, the old account was settled long ago;
And the record's clear today, for He washed my sins away,
When the old account was settled long ago.

- 1 The old account was large, and growing every day,
For I was always sinning, and never tried to pay;
But when I looked ahead, and saw such pain and woe,
I said that I would settle—I settled long ago.
- 2 When in that happy home, my Savior's home above,
I'll sing redemption's story, and praise Him for His love;
I'll not forget that book, with pages white as snow,
Because I came and settled, and settled long ago.
- 3 O sinner, trust the Lord, be cleansed of all your sin,
For thus He hath provided for you to enter in;
And then if you should live a hundred years below,
Up there you'll not regret it—you settled long ago.

Your sins have been forgiven.

They are now under the blood of Jesus.

Accountability

Matthew 12:36

"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the Day of Judgment.

Jesus reminds us that **what we say reveals what is in our heart.** What kinds of words come from your mouth? That is an indication of what is in your heart. You can't solve your heart problem, however, just by cleaning up your speech. You must allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with new attitudes and motives; then your speech will be cleansed at its source.

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Illustration

In the sixteenth century, there was a **protestant reformer in England by the name of Hugh Latimer.** He was known as a great preacher of his day and as a result he had many opportunities to speak. Once he found that he was to preach before the King Henry VIII of England. As he thought about his great responsibility to bring a message before the king he realized that the message that God laid on his heart was not the message that the king would want to hear.

As he began his sermon he remembered that you are speaking before the high and mighty King Henry VIII; who has power to command you to be sent to prison, and who can have your head cut off, if it please him? Will you not take care to say nothing that will offend royal ears?"

He then paused and remembered that he speaking before the King of kings and Lord of lords; before Him, at whose throne Henry VIII will stand; before Him, to whom one day you will have to give account yourself? He determined to faithful to be Master, and declare all of God's Word."

Latimer faced the choice: would he preach what man wanted to hear or would he preach what Christ would have him preach. Latimer did take his stand for truth and preached boldly. Eventually, he was martyred by Henry's daughter Queen Mary.

Each one will give account of himself to God

Romans 14:12

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

Each person is accountable to Christ, not to others. While the church must be uncompromising in its stand against activities that are expressly forbidden by Scripture (adultery, homosexuality, murder, theft).

It should not create additional rules and regulations and give them equal standing with God's law.

Many times Christians base their moral judgments on opinion, personal dislikes, or cultural bias rather than on the Word of God. When they do this, they show that their own faith is weak; they do not think that God is powerful enough to guide his children.

When we stand before God and give a personal account of our life, we won't be worried about what our Christian neighbor has done

Teachers will incur stricter judgment.

James 3:1

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. Teaching was a highly valued and respected profession in Jewish culture, and many Jews who embraced Christianity wanted to become teachers. James warned that although it is good to aspire to teach, teachers' responsibility is great because their words and example affect others' spiritual lives. If you are in a teaching or

leadership role, how are you affecting those you lead?

Pay attention to your flock.

Proverbs 27:23

Know well the condition of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds;

Illustration

GOD CAN USE ONE

D. L. Moody wrote the following words next to Isaiah 6:8 in his Bible: “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do, and what I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.”

Isaiah 6:8: “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”

Let steward be found trustworthy

1 Corinthians 4:2

In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

Paul urged the Corinthians to think of him, Peter, and Apollos as mere servants of Christ entrusted with the secret things of God

A servant does what his master tells him to do. We must do what God tells us to do in the Bible and through his Holy Spirit. Each day God presents us with needs and opportunities that challenge us to do what we know is right.

Those who are given much, much will be required.

Luke 12:48

But the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few from everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

Illustration

THE COST OF INDECISION

Former President Ronald Reagan says he learned the need for decision-making early in life. An aunt had taken him to a cobbler to have a pair of shoes made for him. The shoemaker asked young Ronald Reagan, “Do you want a square toe or a round toe?”

Reagan hemmed and hawed. So the cobbler said, “Come back in a day or two and let me know what you want.”

A few days later the shoemaker saw Reagan on the street and asked what he had decided about the shoes. “I still haven’t made up my mind,” the boy answered. “Very well,” said the cobbler.

When Reagan received the shoes, he was shocked to see that one shoe had a square toe and the other a round toe.

“Looking at those shoes every day taught me a lesson,” said Reagan years later. “If you don’t make your own decisions, somebody else will make them for you!”

We will be judged according to our deeds written in the book of life.

Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Everyone is required to repent.

Acts 17:30

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,

All the world will be accountable to God

Romans 3:19

Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

Do not forsake assembling together.

Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

To neglect Christian meetings is to give up the encouragement and help of other Christians. We gather together to share our faith and to strengthen one another in the Lord.

As we get closer to the day when Christ will return, we will face many spiritual struggles, and even times of persecution. Anti-Christian forces will grow in strength. As difficulties arise, we should make an even greater effort to be faithful in attendance.

We are responsible to warn the wicked.

Ezekiel 33:8

"When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand.

Ezekiel 3:20

"Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he will die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which

he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.

Idle words are accountable.

Matthew 12:36

"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the Day of Judgment.

Our Christian mission will not be an easy one.

Matthew 23:34

"Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,

The fool was going to say to his soul, "Take your ease"

Luke 12:20

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'

Everyone giving account of themselves to God

Matthew 12:36-37

"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the Day of Judgment. "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Jesus reminds us that what we say reveals what is in our heart.

What kinds of words come from your mouth? That is an indication of what is in your heart. You can't solve your heart problem, however, just by cleaning up your speech.

Allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with new attitudes and motives; then your speech will be cleansed at its source.

YES, I AM UNDER GOD!

I live under His heavens,
The nations are under His authority,
My destiny is under His direction,
My past is under His grace,
My future is under His control,
My cares are under His wing,
My sin is under the blood!

CHRIST MAY COME BEFORE YOUR SERMON IS FINISHED

The great preacher F.B. Meyer once asked D.L. Moody, "What is the secret of your success?" Moody replied, "For many years I have never given an address without the consciousness that the Lord may come before I have finished."

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

- New American Standard Bible
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Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print