**“WHEN EVERY KNEE WILL BOW!”**

LAST DAY EVENTS SERIES #3, LA SIERRA SPANISH CHURCH, 4/13/20. LLBN WORSHIP, 7/17/20

**INTRO.** A. Somebody gave me a joke—said her husband put a map of the world on a dart board, gave me a dart, and said, “Wherever you hit, I’ll take you there for 2 weeks.” **So I guess we’re spending 2 weeks behind the REFRIGERATOR!** The question is—where you going to spend the next 1000 years? Dead? Or Heaven? Tonight--Going to look at **LAST DAY EVENTS—see** **where I have had to change a few things.**

 B. Like many people, I grew up scared to death of the Last Days. Scared to death of the book of **REVELATION. Scared of the INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT—**never be good enough. Forget one sin, you’re out. God could call up your name any minute, and if you weren’t perfect right then, going to church, no bad words, reading the Bible every day, nice to everybody no matter how mean they were to you. Love everybody, Democrats, Republicans, Trump, Biden, the Clintons, the cop who gave you a ticket, the referees, the San Francisco Giants, the Yankees, Communists, your boss, everybody. You’d be lost, taken off the List, and you wouldn’t even know it! I grew up **Scared of the TIME OF TROUBLE. Scared of the CLOSE OF PROBATION. But it says: REVELATION 14:6 Three Angels Messages and the Everlasting Gospel.”** Gospel means Good News. So the last message has to be Good News, not scaring everybody to death!

**I. WHAT ABOUT THE JUDGMENT?**  A. Thought I had to be perfect. But didn’t know anybody who had ever made it. One grandfather was a preacher, a saint, but I knew a couple things he messed up when he was old. Other grandfather was in his 90s, in a wheelchair, see a girl, and say, “Boys, look at that.” In his 90s, still girlwatching! So what hope was there? But the Bible says, not supposed to have any fear. **JOHN 14:1 “’Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God.’” Which means that if we’re scared of the Last Days, afraid of the Judgment—don’t really believe in God enough.**

 B. Our Church has taught, that God started a Judgment in 1844. But we have had to make some changes over the years. Here were some of the questions people have had: **#1—How could something so crucial, be so complicated?** You couldn’t figure it out just from the Bible—you had to know archaeology and chronology and a lot of ancient history in order to figure it out. You had to be an expert in math. How people in **Outer Mongolia** supposed to know all of that? **Wycliff** said he wanted the Bible to be in English so the poorest plowboy in England could read it. Our beliefs have to be simple enough for everybody. What good would it be for Jesus to die for everybody but then you have to be a **Ph.D**. to figure it all out?

 **#2—It scared people**—but supposed to be **GOOD NEWS**. But: **1 JOHN 4:18 “Perfect love casts out ALL fear, because fear has to do with punishment.”** Had to go through all my beliefs—no more fear. Anything that takes away your peace of mind with God is wrong. **1 JOHN 5:13 “That you may KNOW you have eternal life!”** **JOHN 3:18 “NO JUDGMENT for those who trust Him.”** If you’re in Jesus, you know you’re saved. Doesn’t matter **WHEN** the Judgment is or when your name comes up—nothing to worry about.

 **#3—We said Jesus didn’t do the COMPLETE ATONEMENT for sin until 1844, when God went into the Most Holy Place and did the Judgment and cleaned out all the sins on the books.** People accused us everywhere of minimizing the Cross. Gradually we changed. We were just wrong. Jesus completed the Atonement at the Cross. Jesus shouted on the Cross, “It is finished.” He went straight to heaven and God accepted the Sacrifice. The book of **HEBREWS** is clear—Jesus has died, and now we have **FULL ACCESS to God. HEBREWS 4:16 “Come boldly to the throne of grace.”** The world is not waiting for God to do anything else to save us. Jesus did it all. Now He’s just waiting for us. \*\*I grew up, if you asked Jesus to forgive your sins, He did, but they weren’t gone. If your name came up in the Judgment, and you hadn’t gotten over every single sin, then all those sins you thought had been forgiven all came back on you, and you would be punished for all of them! But I was wrong! **1 JOHN 1:9 “if you confess He is faithful and just to forgive!” JEREMIAH 31:34 “’I will remember your sins no more!’” Bottom of the ocean.**

 **#4—We said Jesus was in the Holy Place for 1810 years, but then in 1844 He went through the Veil into the Most Holy Place.** No--Jesus said, **JOHN 10:30 “’I and the Father are One.’” Whatever they do, they are absolutely together.** Jesus went back to heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. Rev. 14 says we are standing around the throne of God, name of God AND the the Lamb on our forehead. Together.

 **#5—**We said God had to have a Judgment **so that HE WOULD KNOW WHO TO SAVE. WHOSE NAMES TO PUT ON THE LIST!** No, wrong. Jesus said, **JOHN 10:14 “’My sheep know Me, and I know My sheep.’” 2 TIMOTHY 2:19 “The Lord knows who are His.”** How did I miss that?!

 **#6—**They said, God started out with the Judgment of the dead, then the **LIVING. I was just a young preacher, figured out, that couldn’t be right.** How can God judge you, while you’re still living, still making decisions? So that part of the Judgment can’t happen until the end, **CLOSE OF PROBATION**. Not now.

 C. So what do I believe now? **#1—Judgment is not first of all about us, but about God.** **REVELATION 14:7 “The Hour of His Judgment is come.”** I grew up, thinking God was judging us—but it’s clear in the Bible, we are **JUDGING GOD,** see if we want to be with Him, Not just for one hour at church--but for 1000 years and forever after that. Says, **PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11 “Every knee will bow, every tongue confess, Jesus is Lord.”** 108 billion people have lived on the earth at some point. They will be there at the final Judgment, and every single one has to vote for God—people, angels, demons, unfallen worlds.

 **E. #2—Judgment is not Against Us, but AGAINST the Little Horn.** Little Horn says terrible things against God. God has to have a Judgment, answer all that. Maybe it seems like Satan is winning, Maybe you have suffered some bad stuff. But one of these days God is going to have a Judgment The BEASTS are not going to be able to mess with us anymore. Babylon had a huge banquet, handwriting on the wall, Daniel had to walk in, **“Tonight you have been judged and found wanting, and the kingdom will be taken from you.”** In the Last Days going to be another handwriting on the wall, and we will be like Daniel reading the handwriting on the wall to the world, and the Kingdom will be taken from the Beasts, given to Christ.

 F. **#3—DANIEL 7:22 “God pronounced judgment in favor of the saints.”** If you are in Christ, then you don’t have to worry about the Judgment one more minute.  **JOHN 3:18 “‘There is no judgment for those who trust Him.’” 1 CORINTHIANS13:5 “Love keeps no records of wrongs.”** In the movies–Court Room, always that moment, the jury comes back, verdict. Two of the greatest words in the world–“**Not Guilty.**” People dance, hug their lawyers, everybody’s cheering. Judge says—“You’re Free to Go.”

**II. ONLY JESUS.** A. There’s an old idea I grew up with, that has come back the last few years. Until the end of the world, if you die, you can be saved, as long as you believe in Jesus, like the Thief on the Cross. But at the end of the world—God changes the rules. Jesus will leave the Most Holy Place, there will be no more mediator, no more grace, no more forgiveness, you’re on your own. If you are living at the end of the world, no more Thief on the Cross—you Have to be perfect. Total victory over every sin, and God will check you out at the door, and if there is one sin left, turn around and go back. NO--**HEBREWS 7:25 “He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”** There will never be a time when we will be totally on our own with God, stand on our own two feet, God helps those who help themselves. Salvation will Always Jesus and Jesus alone.

 B. Ellen White says not one person thinks they had anything to do with it themselves. All Jesus.

**III. CLOSE OF PROBATION—A.** I grew up, thought that there would just come a day when God would get fed up, bring the curtain down, that’s it, if you come running up 5 minutes later, too late, too bad. No, God will never close probation until everybody has made their final choice. Is there anything else I could do? No, we’re good. Final Answer? Yes. **BILL HYBELS—**was famous pastor, huge church in Chicago—was down sailing in a race in San Diego Bay. All of a sudden an aircraft carrier came in. Like that the race was over. Half the boats went left, half went right—nobody in the middle anymore. The big boat didn’t decide who went where. It was the reason people had to make a choice. God doesn’t decide who goes where. Own choice.

**IV. MILLENNIUM. A. I** thought, if any doctrine of our 28 we could live without—**MILLENNIUM. Just a chart, 1000 years. Who cares what you believe about a Chart?** If you know Jesus, you’ll be in. I was just wrong! God has been sitting up in heaven, watching all the crud going on down here. Can’t stand it, tsunamis, tornadoes, typhoons, heart attacks, virus, diabetes, divorce. Drugs. No more. Can’t take the chance one more Satan shows up. Not His fault Satan happened back there thousands of years ago, started the War in Heaven. How does He know, won’t be another Satan? God is never going to take away free choice? Only way is for God to answer every question. People ask, Where’s my grandmother? Guy that killed my father, drove his truck on a sidewalk, ran over my father—what’s he doing up here? God has to answer every question, until everybody says—“Look like you got that one right too, God. I’m OK.”

 **B. CLINTON”S**—back in the 90s, Clinton was running for president, all the character questions—women, Whitewater, marijuana, dodging the draft. Clinton’s wouldn’t answer. Finally staff got so mad, said, “We’re being killed. Go into the pressroom, answer every question, don’t leave until everybody is done, and put all this junk behind us once and for all.” Clinton’s refused to do it. So questions still there. God can’t take that chance. Answer every question, ‘til everybody has left the room, no more questions.

 C. **GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT.** God will raise all the wicked. Gather around the City. Great White Throne Judgment–some sort of video, the story of the Cross. As if we were there. When people see the whole Cross, the whipping, the nails. Then Jesus comes out—STANDING OVATION. Huge choir **AMAZING GRACE. HOW GREAT THOU ART.** **PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11 “Every knee will bow and tongue confess, Jesus is Lord.”** People begin to bow down. Adam and Eve. Started it all. All going to bow. Then the wicked. All the terrorists. ISIS. Then every demon. Then in the very back—one more. Satan himself. You think what that will mean to God—after all the lies that Satan has told. Now—everybody is bowing. **The vote is 108 Billion to ZERO**. God was right. Don’t miss that moment. I thought the Millennium was one belief we could let go. No more.

**APPEAL:** **A. WILLIAMS—**old illustration. You know the Bible calls heaven and the second coming like a **PARTY.** I came out of Seminary, Christmas, got to my first church, southern OR, bought a little house on Friday. Preached my first sermon, a couple people invited us to a party that night, no pressure. Sundown changed our clothes, start unpacking, thought, my first church, maybe we should go to that party. Changed again, drove back out there. Drove into the parking lot, completely full. Walked in the door, whole church there, welcome party for us! Terrifying how close we came, not going to my own welcome party! **That’s why I go to every party now—might be another party for me!** **Someday going to be the party to end all parties! Don’t miss it!**

**2nd APPEAL: A. HARE--**Japanese came into Rangoon, Burma. Everybody left the city. Some people, little backpack. Others, had servants carrying everything, beds. Pretty soon everybody is the same, just a backpack. Had to camp that night by the side of the road. Hare had a trumpet—began to play hymns, all the Christians began to camp over by him, others moved as far away as they could. Nobody made them do it. People made their own choice. The next morning, the Christians are trudging along in the hot sun, when an old rickety bus pulls up, lets them ride. They start to get on, the non-Christians ran over, shoved them out of the way, “This is our bus, you wait for the next one.” They rode off, waving. Half an hour later, another bus came along, brand-new, let the Christians on, heading down the road, 30 minutes later, came across the old bus, broken down by the side of the road, all the non-Christians sitting under a tree waiting for it to be fixed! Now it is the Christians who go sailing by, waving to the non-Christians. Some days it may look as if it doesn’t pay to be a follower of Christ! But one of the days—our bus is going to come!