

## ARE YOU MAKING THE RIGHT PREPARATIONS ?

By Jeff Landers

As the summer months approach, many of you may be considering taking a vacation, possibly to a destination to which you have never been. Imagine this scenario with me. You have already chosen the desired place for your vacation – Hawaii, for example. You have searched for the best deal you can find for airline tickets and you have purchased them. You will be flying out on Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, and returning back on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, because the last thing you would want to do is miss being with the church on Sunday. At this point, though, you quit making preparations. You think to yourself – “When that Monday arrives, I’ll just hop on the plane and be out here for my vacation.” I am sure that you are in agreement with me that this is simple foolishness. With no more preparations taken, you will have no clothes to wear, you will have no money to spend, and you will have no place to stay. You may make it to Hawaii, but your experience there will be far less than what you may have originally anticipated.

In a very similar way, many Christians live their lives this way. They have believed in the Lord Jesus for the free gift of eternal life and they have received that gift. Their destination is set and secure for eternity once they leave this life or when the Lord Jesus comes again for us. However, this is where their preparations for eternity have stopped. Therefore, believers who make no preparations for eternity will certainly make it to eternity with the Lord Jesus, but their experience there will be less than what it could have been.

What are the right preparations for eternity that we should be making? After coming to faith in Christ for the free gift of eternal life, we should make every effort to add to our faith goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (2 Peter 1:5-7). These preparations are necessarily going to involve some hard work and effort, for we are not only to add these things to our faith, but we are to do so in ever-increasing ways (2 Peter 1:8). If we prepare for our eternal destiny this way, we will be effective and productive in our service for Christ, and we will not be prone to forget that we have been saved from our sins to eternity with Christ, and we will not be trapped by sin into foregoing the preparations we are supposed to make (2 Peter 1:8-10). When we do, we will not simply make it to eternity with God by the seat of our pants, but we will be given a “rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:11). Michael Green writes that “while heaven is entirely a gift of grace, it admits of degrees of felicity, and ...these are dependent upon how faithfully we will built a structure of character and

service upon the foundation of Christ" (2 Peter and Jude, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries,86). Are you making the right preparations for eternity?

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