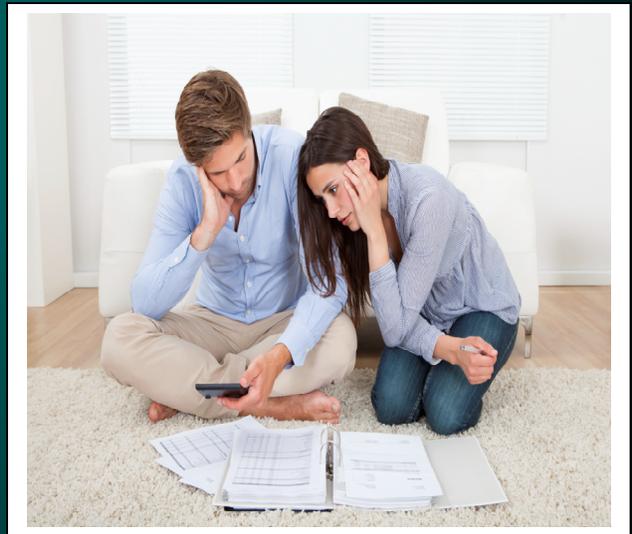


*Things
You Should Do
Before*

*Jesus
Comes*



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“To Do” List

- **Sing A New Song Unto The Lord**
- **Bless The Lord At All Times**
- **Show Forth His Salvation Daily**
- **Declare His Glory Among the Heathen**
- **Give Unto The Lord Strength & Honor**
- **Come Into His Courts With An Offering**
- **Worship The Lord In The Beauty of Holiness**
- **Say Among The Heathen, “The Lord Reigns”**

**Taken from
Psalm 96**

Introduction

“Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof. ¹² Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth”. Psalm 96: 11-13

This portion of scripture tells us that the Lord is coming. He is headed our way with a specific purpose and mission in mind...to judge the earth. He will judge this world with righteousness and the people of earth with His truth.

It also says for the trees, the fields, the earth and even the heavens to be glad and rejoice. We are to be glad and even rejoice over the idea that God is coming in judgment against the wickedness of this world. No longer will we be subject to lies, deceit, violence and oppression. Life as we know it is about to change.

In light of these Biblical facts, Psalm 96 offers a **“Things To Do”** list for His people. This list is a guideline that will keep us clear from participating in the sins of this world. It will also keep our minds free from the philosophies that oppose and attack our faith. If you believe, like I do, that Jesus is coming back to this earth, you should also want to know what you can do while waiting for his return. This **“Things To Do”** list will help.

Psalm 96:1

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth.”

The first thing the Lord wants us to do while waiting for His return is to Sing A New Song. When I first read this I had to think about what song I was singing. I quickly discovered that my song was one of doubt, criticism, fear and worry.

Your song is what you think, what you say and what you do. All you have to do is listen to yourself and hear what your spirit is releasing. Most of us sing a country song that is full of misery, sadness and pain. We seem to relate more to that type of song. I guess that’s why the psalmist said, **“Oh, sing to**

the LORD a new song! The old one will not take you through life's trials and tribulations. You need a new song that is full of joy, peace and hope for the future.

This new song is to be sung to the Lord, not the enemies of your soul. It is a song of worship and praise. It is a song of thanksgiving. It is a song of gratitude. Hear what the Bible says about a merry heart.

***“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine:
but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” Proverbs 17:22***

The old song emanates from a broken spirit. It will dry out the bones and create sickness in the soul. However, the new song makes the heart happy and it is like a medicine. It brings healing and restores the body to good health.

I know you will ask, “Where can I get the words to this new song so you can sing it” They are found only in the Bible. They are the great and precious promises God has given to His people. Just open your Bible, read until you come across a promise, absorb it and begin to sing.

When I read, *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Hebrews 13:5*, I begin to feel safe, secure and accepted. This brings me joy that translates into happiness, which causes me to sing. My song can be none other than an inward hymn of praise, which will alter the way I communicate with others and bring peace to my soul.

Psalm 96:2

“Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.” Psalm 96:2

While we wait for His return, we are encouraged to keep singing, to bless His name and especially to proclaim His salvation from day to day. That's Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and of course, Sunday. Every day, we are to proclaim or TELL. If we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, we tell the story of how He came from heaven to be our savior. If we proclaim His salvation, it becomes personal to us. It is our story too, of how we were saved.

The Good News

The “**Good News**” is that we do not have to live out our lives in hate, sorrow or defeat. We can, because of Jesus, live an abundant life of victory. See it for yourself in the scriptures,

“The thief cometh, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”.
John 10:10

We also have more “**Good News**” in that Jesus is now preparing a place for us and will indeed come for us to take us to our new home where we will dwell with Him for all of eternity. Here’s what He said...

“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” **John 14:2-3**

It’s a great thing to know that you are accepted by your creator, blessed in life and destined to dwell with Christ. That is “**Good News**”

Psalm 96:3

“Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.” **Psalm 96:3**

Jesus does not want us to just sit back and wait for His return. We need to be about our Father’s business. Hear what Jesus said to His disciples.

1. *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”*
Matthew 28:19 (spoken just prior to His ascension into Heaven)
-
2. *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”* **John 14:12** (what greater work have we done in His name?) His power and authority is always available to us.

3. **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16**

We are to declare His glory. That means we share our relationship with the Lord with those around us. We may not be able to go to all the nations but we can view every person around us as a nation in themselves.

Their perspectives and thought process is different than ours. However, they still need Jesus and still need God’s forgiveness. We can instruct, rebuke and even comfort those that enter our world. The key is to be ready when the moment comes. Know what to say and how to say it. A review of salvation scriptures can make a big difference when the opportunity is before you. Consider these:

**John 14:6, John 3:16, Romans 5:12, Romans 3:23
and Romans 6:23, Romans 10:9-10 and Hebrews 7:25.**

This is just a short list. You can Google and find over 70 different verses.

Psalm 96:4-6

“For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. ⁶ Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and Beauty are in His sanctuary.” Psalm 96:4-6

It is clear from the above text that God is the only God. All other gods are man made and not real. We serve Him, the creator of all things. He is all-powerful and worthy of our praise and worship. Honor and Majesty precede His goings and Strength and Beauty fill His sanctuary.

So, as a **“Thing To Do”**, add a clear mindset that elevated Jesus to His rightful place as Lord over your life. Then ensure that you honor Him is everything you do. Be sure you reject idols of all kinds from famous folks to false gods and from power and wealth to self-exaltation.

Psalm 96:7-9

“Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. ⁸ Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. ⁹ Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.” Psalm 96:7-9

Adding to our **“To Do”** list while waiting for Jesus to return is:

1. **Come into His courts**...go to church, enter His presence, get into an attitude of prayer.
2. **Be sure to bring an offering**... to help fund the gospel.
3. **Acknowledge Jesus as powerful**...and glorify Him in your speech and actions.

These things are not hard to do. We just have to set our will aside and seek His. Once we start doing it, it will become easier with every attempt until it is commonplace. We just need to decide and then honor our own decisions with actions.

Psalm 96:10

“Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously.” Psalm 96:10

Finally, we need to know that, **“The Lord Reigns.”** When we are confused, fearful, upset and/or anxious, we need only to remember that, **“The Lord Reigns.”** I know that some folks will not fully grasp this REIGN business so I’ll try to explain it.

When the Bible says that, **“The Lord Reigns”**, it means that:

1. God is in control.
2. He is ruling His kingdom as King.
3. He is endowed with Power and Authority.
4. He is sovereign over this world.
5. He is against the oppressor.
6. He judges righteously.
7. He protects His own.

Knowing these things and that, **”The Lord Reigns”** is more than half the battle. We can rest assured that God is on our side and His judgments are true and beneficial to our well-being.

Conclusion

I love Psalm 96 because it gives us a clear mindset as to how to think and what to do while we wait for Jesus to come for us. Make no mistake, He will come and we will dwell with Him forever.

Today is not a time to sleep or be lackadaisical. It is our opportunity to prepare. There is a world out there that is on its way to Hell and just maybe we can save a few from its fire.

So, let’s make a list so we can look at it everyday. It can be our guide to victory now and peace along the way until our time comes to be with Jesus.

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