

Christ As A Judge

No. 60

Introduction.

- I. This Lord's day I would like to invite your attention to several scriptures found in the New Testament.
(Matt. 25:31-33; Jn. 5:25-29).

Matt. 25:31 But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: 32. and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats; 33. and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

John 5:25. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour cometh, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. 26. For as the Father hath life in himself, even so gave he to the Son also to have life in himself: 27. and he gave him authority to execute judgment, because he is a son of man. 28. Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, 29. and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.

Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1

- II. These passages set forth the fact that Jesus is the judge of all men.

- A. Some day Jesus is coming to judge all men according to what they have done in this life. At that time many men will weep and say to the rocks and mountains, **"Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb."** (Rev. 6:15).
- B. This will not be possible for all must stand before Jesus and give account of things they have done in the body. At that solemn moment, Jesus will judge the following things.

- I. **Christ Will Judge Our Thoughts** - Christ will judge our thoughts. (Eccles. 12:14).

A. Most of us think our thoughts are private, but this is not so.

B. **The Lord knows even the innermost thoughts of man.**

1. The Lord knows what we **think of Him**. He knows if we acknowledge Him as the One and True God of heaven. He knows if we really trust Him. He knows if we really love Him or if our love is a mere pretense.
2. The Lord knows what we **think about others**. He knows if our hearts are full of envy and hatred or if they are filled with love.
3. The Lord knows what we **think about ourselves**. He knows if we are haughty and guilty of

thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think.

4. He also knows if our thoughts are pure and wholesome or if they are centered on base things.

II. **Christ Will Judge Our Words** - Christ will judge our words. (Matt. 12:36, 37).

A. Jesus taught here that we will give account for “every idle word” in the judgment. This being so we must be careful about what we say. We must avoid vain, ugly, hurtful words that hurt and destroy others.

1. A little **5 year old boy** once stopped suddenly in the middle of his story and exclaimed in exasperation, “Oh, I lost the place in my mouth!”

2. I wish every time we were about to say some vulgar or idle word that we would “lose the place in our mouths.” Wouldn’t this be a better world?

B. One of the best ways to stop idle talk in the world is **not to have idle ears**.

1. How long has it been since someone told you something with this warning, “Promise you won’t whisper this to a single soul!”

2. When we hear this, we should **be like the girl** whose girlfriend was about to whisper gossip in her ear. She, “I have the biggest mouth in town. Please don’t tell me anything you don’t want repeated!” The whispering girl was so dumbfounded that she never again asked her friend not to repeat something she told, and was more careful about what she said.

III. **Christ Will Judge Our Motives** - Christ will judge our motives.

A. The judgment will reveal many things. It will reveal the real reason **why we come to church**. It will reveal the **reason we serve**. It will reveal the **reason why we argued some trivial point** to the splitting of the church. It will reveal if we are **sincere or not**.

B. A good many years ago **a preacher enjoyed a “heyday” in Fayetteville, Arkansas**. He even had some of the most distinguished citizens of that city fooled for a while. He would go to the various ones who were in a position to help him and tell them that the Lord had sent him to them. To refuse him, they thought, would be to refuse the Lord. That is why he enjoyed such a “heyday.” He went to a car dealer once with the story that the Lord had appeared to him saying that the man would give him a new car. He got his car! You can imagine how he used this approach. But then one day he went to a wise old miller and said, “The Lord told me to come to you and you would give me a sack of flour.” The miller replied, “Yes, the Lord told me that he had told you that. But the Lord told me after he told you I would give you a sack of flour he changed his mind and for me not to let you have it!”

C. Needless to say the preacher know who to leave alone after that! In the judgment such fellows will be exposed and condemned by Jesus, for Jesus knows the motives of our hearts.

IV. **Christ Will Judge Our Actions** - Christ will judge our actions.

A. Many people will be condemned because of “the works of the flesh.” (Gal. 5:19-21).

19. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
20. idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties,
21. envyings, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you, that they who practise such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

B. Many people will be condemned on the ground of what they did not do - the sin of omission.

Matt. 25:41. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels: 42. for I was hungry, and ye did not give me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; 43. I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44. Then shall they also answer, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45. Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of these least, ye did it not unto me. 46. And these shall go away into eternal punishment: but the righteous into eternal life.

C. These individuals were not condemned for what they did, but they were condemned for what they did not do!

1. **Some members of the church** today are very active, but some do not do any more for the Lord than a store dummy. They live a negative life like a manikin. They don't curse, don't steal, don't bride someone, don't fight and fuss, don't get drunk, don't beat their wives, don't abuse their friends or children. To put it plainly they just don't do anything but warm a pew.
2. **A Christian lady once** said during a meeting, "I ain't been doing nothing and I'm aiming to quit it."
3. That might have been a crude way of putting it. But brethren, we need **more quitting meetings!** We can't just get to heaven on "nothings." We've got to do something to get there.
 - a. The religion of Jesus Christ is an active, dynamic religion. (Matt. 7:21; Jas. 1:27; 2:14-17).
 - b. The ones who will pass through the eternal gates will be **the ones who exercise their faith..the ones who were seeking to do the will of God.**

V. **Dedication** - The Lord will judge our dedication.

A. There is nothing that will take the place of dedication.

1. The Christian must be completely and wholeheartedly dedicated to the Lord. He must put the Lord first and love the Lord more than life himself.
2. I am afraid that many Christians today are not dedicated to the Lord. Many Christians are merely playing religion.

B. **Let me briefly describe a person who is playing at religion.**

1. A person is playing religion if he is **not interested in coming to Bible study** and learning God's word elsewhere.
 2. A person is playing religion if he **only comes Sunday morning when it is convenient**, but never on Sunday night or Wednesday night.
 3. A person is playing religion **if he listens as others worship** instead of participating himself.
 4. A person is playing religion if he **gives only a small percent of his income** to the Lord being capable of doing much more.
 5. A person is playing religion if he **has a pious look on Sunday** and lives with indifference the rest of the week.
 6. A person is playing religion if he spends **more time on selfish purposes** than he does doing the work of the Lord.
- C. Brethren, I am afraid that too often we just play at religion and do not really get serious about it. Jesus will condemn such in the judgment. He will say, "Depart from me. Ye that work iniquity. Ye worshiped me with your lips; but your heart was far from me."

Conclusion.

- I. Recently I read a **story about judge who saved another man from drowning**. Some years later the man the man who had been rescued by the judge had to appear before the judge for wrong doing. The man who had been saved thought he would find favor with the judge and reminded him of how some years before he had saved him. The judge solemnly replied, "Then I was your Savior; today I am your judge."
- II. I submit to you that the same is true of Jesus Christ.
 - A. Christ is now our Savior, but the time will come when He will be our judge. Christ is coming again to judge our thoughts, words, motives, actions, and dedication.
 - B. We often sing the song, "There is a great day coming!" The judgment will be a great day for the righteous, but it will be the saddest do all days for the unrighteous. Those who do not stand approved will be cast into the eternal hell where there shall be the weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- III. **How will you face Christ in the judgment?**
 - A. Will you face Him as your Savior? Will you face Him with your sins forgiven? Will you face Him with the realization that you have spurned Him in life? Will you face Him unprepared? David once said, There is but a step between life and death. One day you will take that last step.
 - B. **Are you ready for that last step?** Are you ready to stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give account of your life? If not, begin making that preparation today. Give you life to Jesus. Confess your faith in Him, be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins and live a life of devotion to Him. Come as we stand and sing.

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