THE JUDGMENT

Rev. 6:14-17

INTRODUCTION:

I want to talk to you about the subject of this great Scripture, the coming judgment. There are many passages of Scripture that we could read in many places in the Word of God which speaks of the last great day. There is a good deal we are told about it.

For example, in Acts 17:30 and 31 we read because he had appointed the day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained, whereof he hath given assurance unto all men in that he has raised him from the dead.

There are many great days in the world. One was the great day when God made man. Another great day was when Jesus was crucified as the Saviour for that man. Another great day was when Jesus was raised from the dead giving assurance of a resurrection of all the dead. Now the Bible tells us that there is another great day ahead. It is called in God's word the Judgment Day. Now there are many things that are told to us about the day of Judgment. And there are many things that are pre-figured in the Judgment Day.

As we think today of the judge who is handling the case of the man who murdered Senator Kennedy in the court. The man is being tried for his life. And while the lawyers are speaking, there will be a Judgment Day that will come for that man beyond the day for which he will be judged by man, here on this earth. The judgement that you and I have got to face for the deeds done in the body.

Of course I would like to begin by saying that first of all the Judgment we speak of is not for the saved. This great day of judgment for the sinner has nothing to do with the Christian. The judgment of the Christian has been passed in the 8th Chapter and the 1st Verse of the Book of Romans, and in other places in the Bible, where we are told there is now no condemnation for them that are in Christ Jesus.

You and I were judged, if we are Christians, in Jesus Christ when we accepted him, as our Personal Saviour. And the wrath of God fell upon Christ for us and our judgment ended on Calvary because we trusted Christ as our substitute in life, in death, for sin, and the judgement bar of God. Therefore, we as Christians do not fear the coming judgment for any man who has Jesus Christ in his heart. He is secure in Christ.

The only interest that the Christian has in the judgment day is that his reward will be assigned. God will hand out to the Christian whatever reward is coming to him and this is solemn and meaningful.

Now, I might say just a word further on the experience of the Christian, and the fact the judgment for the Christian. There will be sins, of course, that will lead to the judgment of the Christian. I think first the Christian will be judged according to his unsatisfactory service. I Cor. 2:13. Now the principle of judgment runs through the Bible and may not wholly be to the future. Some of the judgment of God on the Christian may be taking place now. 2 Cor. 5:10, Rom. 14:10. For example, Annanias - the judgment was immediate. How did it come. Simply every man's work. Paul speaking of the leader is speaking of a principle that every man. The most elegant lip service is not enough. For us to be saved is not enough. Some say all we need to do is get saved and have a conversion, and then we can just go ahead and live as we please.

In the second place, I think the Christian has to worry about his judgment and his umbrotherly conduct. I Cor. 3:15. That is, his life's work. 2 Tim. 2:15. You are going to be judged as a workman who will not be ashamed. I Cor. 6:1-8 He will be umfit. He has wronged, he has hurt someone. He has done this maybe through dishonesty. I Thess. 4:11. Or he has done this through covetousness. Eph. 5:5. He has been covetous. James 1:14. He has been unChrist-like. 2 Peter 2:3. And there has really been no relationship - ignoring of the needy.

He, in the third place, will stand judgment for his unbridled tongue. James. 1:26.

A man's religion is vain, a man's religion is worthless the writer says.

James 3:1-12 - A teacher has great opportunity and great responsibilities.

And he is going to be judged by every idle word. Matt. 12:36.

In the fourth place, he is going to be judged on his unguarded life. Gal. 6, 7, 8. I think some of the present judgment of the crime and immoral living - these things in the way people live. I. Cor. 6:9. Eph. 5:5. Now the country is falling apart. In mild decay and in revolution. And this is most dangerous living; a rising tide of general dishonesty, etc.

Then in the fifth place, the Christian will be judged by his unstayable faith. James 1:6, 8. A man cannot have any such thing as being neutral in following Christ. Now he must have his works appraised and they will be determined by awards. All of this comes as a rebuke to the Christian.

Now John saw that the sun was turning to darkness. The moon was blood-red. The stars fell like figs before a great wind. The Heavens rolled out like a scroll of paper. Mountains and islands disappeared. People in every class and condition hid themselves in caves and cried for the mountains to fall upon them, and hid them from the wrath of the one on the Throne and of the lamb. Now this was the cause of the day of their land. Rev. 6:14-17. Here is a great earthquake taking place and shaking all of the powers. Political, social, and the sun is black. The moon becomes as blood. The moon gets all its light from the sun and the stars are falling from Heaven as indicated here. And the Heavens and the powers are rolled up.

Yet we read of no repentance, no true turning back to God or trusting Jesus Christ.

This is an awful realization that if the land has been rejected, there will be no escape.

But the wrath of God is as prophesied here.

Next I would like to give unto you some matters about the judgment day as we speak of it.

would judge the world. I would tell you tonight, that the judgment day is fixed and God knows when that day is coming. In his plan and program, he has fixed a definite date or

day and all the other plans and other programs of men are being worked out according to that great coming day. So this time and date has been settled. You may put this down in your mind according to Acts 17:31. There has been appointed a day.

Second there will be a crowd there. Every man and woman, the judgment bar of God on that day. The graves will give up their dead, the sea will give up the ones buried in it. The infant born but a span long and the man that lived to be the oldest man of all history will come forth for judgment of God. Now that will be a wonderful crowd in a way. As the Kings, the Emperors, the Generals, the great, the small, the free men will all come forth. And every man - there is no way to escape it. There is no way to avoid it. God's decree has gone out and he said that his agents will bring to the judgment bar all nations and all peoples. This Scripture says that the rich and the great shall cry that the mountains and the rocks shall fall on them. But God's power cannot be uprooted. And he tells us that men would rather face an earthquake than to come face to face with God.

In the third place, the judge has been upon you. He has named in this Scripture that it is Jesus Christ, the man slain from the foundation of the world. Jesus, the one who died for us. The Scriptures are plain that Jesus was the creator of all things, that he is the Saviour of all things. And that he is today at the right hand of God, the Father. And his hand controls the powers of the world.

Now I would like for you to think about that for a little while. It speaks of the wrath of the land. Now we have studied about Christ and his mercy. And the love side, but the Scriptures reveal that this lamb has also wrath and at the judgment bar of God, he will be judged. Jesus Christ the one who loves us the most will be the one to judge us.

In this world we have men who serve as judges and who are making judgments in court.

We also have other people in the community who are self-appointed judges - who judge individuals at every turn in life. And of course, some of the judgments may not be upon fair ground. It may be like the woman once who told the story of her life - she loved a man and poured out an affection upon him - giving him her love in young womanhood and he was the father of her children. But now all the happiness is gone. For another woman had come along and the story - that she had stole away his love and now he was mistreating her and the children. She told how that she would if she could crush him with her hands. She said I would glory in the opportunity of taking his life from him. Now her love had been turned into wrath. I wonder if it is not something like that to be judged of Jesus Christ. The one who has the wrath of the lamb. You have to meet him.

In the fourth place, that is a standard of judgment. The judge in the courthouse in California has delivered his charge to the jury and they had a standard to go by in delivering that charge. Now he has got to remember the statues of the state and also the Constitution of the United States. And these are the standards by which the law is to be delivered and the evidence to be taken.

And so, when God's great government - there is a standard. We are to be judged.

We'll be judged by this book. We are to be judged at the judgment bar of God by the law layed down in God's word - The Bible. It is the Constitution of man's conduct. You and I have got to be measured by the standards of righteousness set up in God's word. And then we have got to be judged by the standards of Christ's righteousness. He is the standard. He is God's great measuring rod by which men's lives have to be judged at the judgement bar of God.

Ever hear anybody pray, Lord give us justice. Now we do not want that prayer answered. We do not want justice. Mr. Spurgeon said, everything above Hell is mercy. I want mercy - I do not want justice. Yonder is the judgment and our lives are going to be measured by the life of Jesus Christ. Every man at the judgment bar of God will be judged. You will be judged either by Jesus Christ or in Jesus Christ. Now the question

is, can you stand it. You need to call on the Saviour tonight and let him stand, who has stood for you.

England and one of the South American Republics. That a man who claimed his relationship to the British Government and had his citizenship in the United States was arrested in Brazil. He was tried and the court condemned him to die. The British and American representatives did all they could to save his life. And their plans failed and the Brazilian Government said, he has violated the law and we are going to execute him.

The day came for his execution. He stood there in an open field and the soldiers of the Government were ready with their guns. And just before the time to shoot, a representative of the English Government and a representative of the United States walked out and the prisoner was wrapped with the English flag and then with the American flag. And those two men stood back and said, now shoot. If you fire on this man, we want to tell you that back of these flag are the English and American Armies and the English and American Navys - he is covered with the flags of these Governments.

There is one other thing about this judgment. And that is what will happen when the judgment is passed. Have you ever tried to think about it. The things that would happen after the judgment bar of God.

Now the saved man who has been faithful in his service to God will receive a crown of righteousness, to put on his head. The soul-winner will also be blessed, with a crown Now this is a glorious thing to think about - the rewards of the child of God.

On the other hand, think of what will happen to the unsaved man. The man who will receive the condemnation of God. The one who has rejected Jesus Christ. Now that same nail-pierced hand that died on the cross, was crucified, will point the way to you down to Hell - to the separation and the darkness that will come to you after the judgment. For those who have rejected Christ.

First, the confirmation of Life's Decisions will be over. Man has already decided it. And Jesus will not reverse it. 2 Thess.2:8.

This will mean the conclusion of life's opportunity Rev. 22:11.

Luke 16:26. There will be no such thing as second chances - it will be over.

Condemnation of life's evil. 2 Thess. 2:12.

What then really follows.

First, separation. Matt. 7:23.

Second, Severence. There will be the complete cutting off from the company of the redeemed. It has been the benediction for the unsaved people to associate with those who are Christians today. And they do not realize what a blessing it is, to have the privilege of having fellowship with honest Christian up-right people.

Third, it will be followed by suffering which will be eternal.

The duration - Matt. 25:41 says forever.

Suffering will be inescapable, in reality. Matt. 23; Rom. 2:3. Says how can you escape.

The suffering will be incomprehensible in anguish. Is it fire. The body lives on in the earth. The fire will never go out. Now this will be suitable to man's nature. It is suggestive - it is enough to make one weep. Heb. 31 - tells us that it will be fearful.

What does this mean to the lost. What does this mean to the Christian. And what does this mean to us.

H. A. Gordon, that great Boston preacher, tells of a dream that an unsaved man had and it was a Scriptural dream. This man dreamed that one morning he got up as God's agent, as Gabriel blew the judgment horn for the end of time and for all those who had been saved to be caught up in the air. The dream was that he got up and looked for his wife and he could not find her. There were her clothes just as she left them the night before. He said to himself, I judge she has gone down to open the door for the servant. He waited - she did not come. He dressed and went down to the back door. He found the

door locked. He went out to the servant's house. His old servant was a Christian. There was the servant's clothes just as he had left them the night before and the bed was unoccupied. He came back, he went upstairs to his son's room, and said have you seen your Mother. Why, father, what has happened. Well, he said I cannot find her. Her clothes are in her room just as she left them last night. He said maybe she is out to the servant's house. No, her clothes are just as she left them. I have been to your sister's room and she is gone, he said. We went downstairs and as I went to open the door, a man came along and asked - have you seen my wife. No, he said. Have you seen my wife? About that time, along came a man all scared and said, I came through the cemetery and the graves - some of them were open. And he said something has happened in this town.

One shall be taken - the other left. There shall be two grinding at the mill, one taken and the other left. There shall be two in the field, one shall be taken and the other left. Some of these days, my friend, you are going to wake up and your loved ones will be caught up by the angels of God.

But may God help you to know tonight that you will come to the judgment bar of God and you best be saved. And saved now.

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