

SOULS TRIED BEFORE THE JUDGMENT DAY

Text:

Galatians 2:16: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the Law: for by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.

1 Peter 4:17-18:

¹⁷ For the time is come that judgment must begin at the House of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God?

¹⁸ And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Have you been born-again, or not?

According to your answer to that question, your eternal destiny is determined and settled tonight. Speaking to you personally, as though no one else were here but you — come and be honest with your own soul. You are either under the wrath of God or saved by the Blood of Jesus. You are either a child of God or a child of the devil.

You are either under the wrath of God or saved by the Blood of Jesus.

If you know not which, better that you should decide for the worst, for those who are born-again know it, for the Spirit of God beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. Therefore, the children of God can say: Christ hath redeemed me from the curse of the law . . .

Galatians 3:13: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

I speak to you as individuals who shall stand before the Judge of the quick [alive] and the dead, before Whom we all must appear to give account for our deeds,

whether good or bad. I charge my own soul, be faithful to these dying men and woman, lest happily on myself at that day should be found the blood of souls, and thou should charge me with your doom.

The Holy Spirit declared unto us in our text that a man is not justified by the works of the Law.

Galatians 3:10: For as many as are of the works of the Law are under the curse: for it is written, "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the Book of the Law to do them.

He also tells us:

Romans 3:10: As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Knowing this, you must plead guilty, for God knows your heart.

But I will suppose for one moment that one of you is bold enough and self-righteous enough to say that you do not need to be born-again, redeemed by the Blood of Jesus, and made a new creature in Christ. So then, you assert that you have continued in all things which are written in the Law [sinned not]? Surely the very reading of the Law would be enough to convince you that you are in error.

Do you know what the Law is? Why I will give God's Law to you lawless-in-heart is because I love your soul and crave that you be saved. Listen to the Word of God:

Exodus 20:3: "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

What, thou never loved anything better than God? Have you ever made a god of your belly, of your business, of your family, of yourself? Oh surely you dare not say you are guiltless here.



Exodus 20:4: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in Heaven above.

You know that you have to cast yourself down before honor, praise of men, pleasure, drunkenness . . .

Will you say that you have never taken the Name of the Lord thy God in vain? If you have never sworn profanely, yet surely in common conversation you have made use of God's Name when you ought not to have done so. Have you really hallowed that Most Holy Name?

Have you never called upon God without going back and doing the things you promised the Lord that you would, guilt doing when you were under deep conviction?

Exodus 20:8: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it Holy

Have you ever broken it? You must shut your mouth and plead guilty, for your very heart condemns you.



Exodus 20:12: Honor your father and thy mother.

Have you never been disobedient to your parents or spoken harshly to them. Have you never kicked against a mother's love, or striven against a fathers rebuke? Turn over pages of your history until you come to your childhood; see if you cannot find it written there; and then see if your manhood or womanhood has not always spoken to your parents as you should, or always treated them with that honor they deserved, and which God commanded you to give unto them.

Exodus 20:13: Thou shalt not kill.

You say never have killed any, but have you been angry? He that is angry with his brother is a murderer; thou are guilty here.

Exodus 20:14: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Maybe you have committed unclean things, and are this day stained with lust; but if you have been chaste, I am sure that not so guiltless, when our Master says in:



Matthew 5:28: whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Exodus 20:16: thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Have you ever said anything false — in any matter — against another? Have you ever lied to or about him, or ever tried to deceive him? Have you ever said anything against him that would hurt his reputation, including slandering, backbiting,

talebearing, or saying things about him to make yourself look better? Then you are guilty of breaking this commandment.

Exodus 20:17: thou shalt not covet.

Have you ever found yourself coveting things that others have — their house, car, physical appearance, intelligence, career, spouse, finances, and so forth?

If you are honest, you know that there are many occasions in your life when you could have done well, but you did not.

James 4 :17: Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin

Surely, none of us have done the best we could. If we try to put off our condemnation by saying we have been no worse than our fellow creatures, by our reply we are declaring that to be damned in a crowd is no more comfortable than to be damned alone.

It may be true that you have no worse actions than others, but when the wicked are cast into Hell, it will be very little comfort to you that God shall say, as recorded in **Matthew 25:41:**

Matthew 25:41:depart from me, ye cursed.

Remember: God's curse — when it shall sweep a nation into Hell — shall be as much felt by every individual of the crowd as if there were but just that one to be punished. God is not as man in judgment, and He will not be bribed like earthly judges.



Ah, but, cried another, I have very many times strived to keep the Law, and I think I have done pretty well. Hear ye the sentence read again:

Galatians 2:16: Know that a man is not justified by the works of the Law.

It is not some 'slight obedience' that God will accept at the Day of Judgment.

Galatians 3:10: For as many as are of the works of the Law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the Book of the Law to do them.

Remember dear friends, I am speaking now God's Own Word, not a harsh doctrine of my own. **Unless we have the Blood and imparted Righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ to cover us, we must every one of us acknowledge that this scripture shuts the gates of Heaven against us, and only prepares us for the flames of eternal punishment.**

Much rather would we like to preach 20 sermons about the love of Jesus than one like this, but our Master would not be pleased with nor bless half a Gospel, for He will have both preached in their measure, and each must have its proper prominence.

I must tell thee sinner that you are cursed, and not by some wizard whose fancied spell can only frighten the ignorant. ***Thou art cursed*** . . . not by some earthly dictator who could turn his troops against thee and swallow up thy house and possessions. But thou art cursed of God's Word. Cursed is every man that continues not . . . for by the works of Law shall no flesh be justified for all have sinned.

Romans 3:20: Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

And the curse is not only failure, but is now upon thee.

Deuteronomy 28:15: But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the Voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all His Commandments and His Statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Can you not see this in the drunkard as he goes out to his house — his little children run upstairs to bed, for they are afraid of him. They begin to swear that he is cursed based upon what they see in his behavior and by his drunken body.

I believe God wants us to stop being careless and to awaken our sleeping conscience.



Now my friend — you that are in this impenitent and unbelieving state — I have more work to do before I close. Remember, the judgment and curse that men have in this life is nothing compared with curse that is to come upon them hereafter. In a few short years man must die. Come, friends, I will talk to you personally again . . . young man, we shall soon grow old, or perhaps we shall die before that time. We shall awaken from our last slumber to hear the doleful tiding that there is **no hope**; oh solemn hour when we must struggle with that enemy death.

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The death rattle is in our throat . . . we can scarcely speak; the death glaze is in our eyes, putting out the windows of the body and shutting out the light forever. When God has removed the curtain and you learn the solemn reality that you are consigned to Hell and begin to see and feel the fiery Throne of Judgment, and hear the thunders of the Wrath of the Almighty God, you will not find time to trifle.

In Noah's time, they laughed at the old man. They called him a grey-headed fool because he told them that a flood was coming. When God unloosed the door of the great deep, and all the hidden waters leap upon the surface, then they knew that Noah was right.



Maybe when you come to die, you will laugh at me and these solemn truths we have declared unto you, but as sure as Noah prophesied of the doom of the wicked, so certain will you face the Judgment and Wrath of God.

For I speak matters that are no dreams, no frauds, no whims, no old wives stories, but realities.

Hebrews 9:27: And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the Judgment.

I think I see that terrible day. The 'bell of time' has tolled for the last time, and now comes the funeral of damned souls. Your body has just started up from the grave, and you unwind your cerements [wrapping of the dead], and you look up.

What is that I see? O what is that I hear? I hear one dreadful, tremendous blast which shakes the pillars of Heaven and makes the firmament reel with a fright that time shall be no more.

Suddenly a voice is heard, along with shrieks from some and songs from others. He comes — He comes, and every eye shall see Him. There He is, sitting upon the Throne — the Man that died on Calvary.



I see His pierced Hands.

I see His pierced Feet.

As with a lightning flash, the angels' wing divides the crowd.



Here are the righteous all ingathered on the right. The sinners will be on the left; will you be with them to abide the burning sentence of eternal wrath?

You have lived your day in the lusts of the flesh and in the pleasures of sin, but now the gathering clouds of Wrath enclose you. Christ Jesus looks upon you who have despised Him, you who have scoffed His Grace, scorned His Mercy, broken His Sabbath, mocked His Cross, and neglected so great a salvation. Finally, you hear a voice louder than a ten thousand thunders. You then hear *His Voice* say:

Matthew 25:41: "DEPART FROM ME, YE CURSED, INTO EVERLASTING FIRE" [unquenchable flames].



'You have condemned us all', one cries to me. 'Yes, but not I, God has done it.'

Are you condemned? Do you feel the weight of your sin? Come to an altar of prayer and plead for the Mercy of the Lord which leads to repentance, for He is not willing that any should perish. Come while the Door of Mercy is still opened and a fountain of cleansing for sin and uncleanness is still before you.

My harshest words are far fuller of love than the smoothly soft-speaking minister who says: "Peace, Peace", when there is no peace.

I must preach repentance as the Holy Bible declares in Luke 13:3:

Luke 13:3: Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

You see, it's not by your good works that you will be saved, but rather by belief in the Son of God Who has reconciled us to God by His death on the Cross.

Galatians 2:16: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the Law: for by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.

Oh, cry out tonight, saying:



“Lord Jesus have mercy on me, a sinner, for I know now that by the deeds of the Law shall no flesh be justified, but by the faith of Jesus Christ.”

The Faith of Jesus Christ is imparted to you when you repent and utterly hate sin; then you are blessed by the Name of Jesus. For Jesus will have Mercy upon you, and your God will abundantly pardon.

“Lord, I come to thee tonight having to plead by Thy Blood which was shed for me, and believing Thy Word which says that him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.”

John 6:37b: and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.

“I also come based on Thy Word which also said that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

1 Timothy 1:15a: This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;

“Lord, I am a sinner, vile and guilty, and thanking you for your Merciful Words:”

Matthew 12:31a: All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men.

“I thank you for what you said on the night of the Last Supper:”

Matthew 26:28: For this is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

“O Lamb of God, I come to You tonight for Your pardon and Your cleansing.”

In worldly things such as business and politics, men spend a lot of time reading the newspapers because they are concerned with the temporal affairs of this world which affect their own personal gains or loses. But in a faith-filled religion, it is otherwise.

When it comes to religion, men would much rather focus on abstract doctrines and talk of general truths than engage in deep soul-searching that would allow them to see how those doctrines personally affect them.

You will hear many men admire the preacher who deals in generalities, but when the preacher comes to press home self-searching questions, by and by they are offended. If we stand and declare general facts, such as the universal sinful nature of mankind or the need of a Savior, they will assent and possibly even admire the message because they are not affected. But how often will our audiences gnash their teeth or go away in a rage because — like the Pharisees with Jesus — they perceive that He spoke of them.



Salvation is a personal matter, for we must all die alone and will appear before the Bar of God alone.

John 7:7: The world cannot hate you; but Me [Jesus] it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

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