

“The Final Judgment”  
Philippians 2:9-11  
(Preached at Trinity, November 20, 2016)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Verses 6-11** is a wonderful declaration of the incarnation of Christ. Many believe it is an early hymn sung to the glory of Christ.  
Instead of holding on to His eternal place as the second person of the Godhead He humbled Himself and took upon Himself the flesh of humanity.
  - a. The one who was transcendent, high and above our human condition came down to dwell among us. In lowliness Jesus left His place of majesty to enter a place of misery. He left His exalted throne to come as a lowly servant.
  - b. He came in obedience to the Father in order to redeem His people from their sin.
2. Having fully accomplished His mission of saving His people from their sins He has returned to His throne of glory.
3. **Verse 9** describes the glorious exaltation of Christ. It begins with the word,  $\delta\iota\acute{o}$ , a conjunction drawing inference. In other words “For this reason” - because Jesus left His eternal abode and because He came in humble obedience and because He fully accomplished the will of the Father, God has raised him back to the glorious throne He occupied for all eternity.  
**John 17:5 NAU** - "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."
4. As we entered this section our attention was drawn to the humiliation of Christ. He came as a humble servant. His life was a life of submission to the Father and service to His fellow man. Paul tells us, “Gaze upon Him.”  
**Philippians 2:5 NAU** - "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,"
5. But now our attention is drawn to the absolute dominion of Christ.  
Jesus has been raised as Mediator to sit upon His mediatorial throne where He exercises His offices as Prophet, Priest, and King.
  - A. His work as our Mediator is continuing. He is continuing to redeem His precious Bride as He builds His Kingdom.
  - B. He is continuing to vanquish all of His enemies as He vindicates the Father's holiness.  
**Psalms 110:1 KJV** - "The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."
6. Jesus will come again. This time, however, not in humble servitude, but in infinite power and authority. He will return in great power in the light of His majesty and glory.  
**Luke 21:25-27 NAS** - "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup> men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

**2 Thessalonians 2:8 NAS** - "And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;"

7. **Verses 10-11** tell us that every knee will bow before the throne of Jesus and every tongue will declare His Lordship.

This morning I want to take a few minutes to set before you the final judgment. Every human being will come before His throne of judgment.

- I. The first thing we must see here is the universal dominion of Christ. Jesus is King of all.  
**Revelation 19:15-16 NAU** - "From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "King of kings, and Lord of lords."

A. Jesus has been raised to a universal throne

1. Notice the universal language

**Verse 9** – He has been given the name above every name

**Verse 10** – “Every knee will bow” of every creature in the universe – “in heaven and on earth and under the earth.”

**Verse 11** – “Every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.”

B. Upon the cross Jesus purchased dominion over all things

1. Peter declared Jesus’ legal right over even the false prophets and teachers

**2 Peter 2:1 NAU** - "But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves."

a. The word for “Master” (Lord in KJV, Sovereign Lord in ESV) is δεσπότης – we get our word Despot from it.

b. Peter is referring to their denial of Christ who own’s dominion over them. He is Lord of all.

2. Jesus declared this authority after His resurrection

**Matthew 28:18-20 NAU** - "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

<sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

3. Jesus has the right to exercise this authority universally

*All hail the power of Jesus' name!*

*Let angels prostrate fall;*

*bring forth the royal diadem,*

*and crown him Lord of all.*

*Bring forth the royal diadem,*

*and crown him Lord of all.*

C. Jesus exercises this dominion universally

**Hebrews 1:3 NAU** - "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high"

1. This is seldom the Jesus portrayed today
  2. Jesus is seen as a meek servant begging for us to let Him come in
  3. People play at Christianity. Worship is to be entertaining
- D. Keeping the coming of our Sovereign Lord always before our eyes helps us to maintain a right attitude about Him.
- 1 Timothy 6:13-16 NAU** - "I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, <sup>14</sup> that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen."
- E. It also helps us to maintain the right attitude in evangelism
1. Evangelism is about charging sinners to fall before their King
  2. Evangelism is about going forth under the authority of the King
- II. Every human being will stand before this throne of judgment.
- A. The judgment will be universal
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 NAU** - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."
1. This judgment will be personal  
We will all stand before Him individually  
When Paul says, "Every knee shall bow" he means every individual, every person.
  2. We will all be examined individually  
God not only knows our works; He knows even our thoughts. We will be judged according to the entirety of our personhood – every secret will be exposed and brought to light.  
**Romans 2:16 NAU** - " on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus."
  3. Most close their eyes to this reality. They allow the numbing effect of the world to hide this fearful truth.
- B. Jesus Christ is taking notice of everything we do.
1. Nothing passes by without His notice – Everything in this world is continually before Him  
**Psalms 33:13-14 NAU** - "The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; <sup>14</sup> From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth,"
  2. God knows every detail of every event since the beginning of time
    - a. He remembers the details of the fall of Satan
    - b. He remembers the flood and every individual that perished – several million souls. Each individual lived his life, each day passing. They got married, had children, bought lands, acquired wealth – and perished in their sin.

**Genesis 6:5 NAU** - "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." He knew their actions. He even knew their thoughts. And He remembers.

**Amos 8:7 NAS** - "The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob, "Indeed, I will never forget any of their deeds."

- c. He remembers Sodom and Gomorrah and every detail of the lives of those that perished
- 3. He knows the things we think are hidden
  - a. Sarah laughed silently within her tent, yet God knew
  - b. Achan stole the Canaanite treasures and carefully hid them, but God knew
  - c. Judas Iscariot had no idea that anyone knew about the money he often took from the disciple's treasury

**John 12:6 NAU** - "Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it."

- d. Ananias and Sapphira thought they had everyone fooled
- C. What are your secrets? He has seen every detail of your life
  - 1. He was there when you were born, when you took your first step, your first words.
  - 2. He knows every sin
    - a. Every time you disobeyed or disrespected your parents
    - b. Everything that has entered into your mind  
He knows every lustful thought, every covetous thought, envy, jealousy, hate, anger, thoughts of revenge, selfishness, racist thoughts, prideful thoughts
    - c. He knows every lie you have ever told
    - d. He knows everything you have taken that did not belong to you
    - e. He knows how you use the internet or social networks or your cell phone – how much time, what you have viewed.
    - f. He knows the things that your heart adores
  - 3. Nothing escapes His infinite eye  
**Psalms 139:1-4 NAU** - "You have searched me and known *me*.<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.<sup>3</sup> You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.<sup>4</sup> Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all."
  - 4. He also knows everything you have done for His kingdom  
**Proverbs 5:21 NAU** - "For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths."

III. This judgment ends the same for all but infinitely different

- A. For all there will be absolute submission
1. Paul says every knee shall bow
  2. For the elect it will be a recognition of His infinite glory
  3. For the wicked it will be forced submission to His authority
  4. Then comes the end
- B. The final judgment begins an endless eternity
1. All human beings are created with immortality – all of us will survive beyond the grave. All of us will exist for eternity.
  2. Paul is reminding us here that eternity begins at the throne of Christ. Paul says here that everyone, without exception, will declare that Jesus Christ is Lord.
    - a. Paul isn't declaring a universal salvation; that in the end all will trust Christ and call Him Lord.
    - b. This isn't a willful submission but the submission of a conquered enemy.  
**Psalm 110:1 NAU** - "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
    - c. They will be forced to bow in submission to the King
- C. What happens next?
1. For the wicked, they will be forced to bow and then they will be cast forever from the presence of Christ.  
**Matthew 13:49-50 NAU** - "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, <sup>50</sup> and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
    - a. Hell is the ultimate expression of the wrath of God. It is a place where men will be eternally given over to their sin.
    - b. Hell is described as a lake of fire that will bring endless torment and suffering – heat that will singe the flesh, yet the flesh will never die.
    - c. It is described as a place of darkness – no beauty, no pleasures – only darkness
    - d. The lusts of the condemned will only be intensified. They'll lust after cars and houses, all of the material things they had upon the earth but there will be nothing. They will long for good food. They will never taste of a soft drink or even a sip of water.
    - e. Those in hell will be surrounded by Satan and his demons who with their cruelty will only add to the torment
    - f. Those in hell will be completely void of love or compassion. Those in hell will spend eternity in the midst of bitter hatred and enmity
    - g. Those in hell will know no mercy. There will be no hope. They will cry in anguish yet their cries will go unheard by God.

3. For the righteous, however, we will gladly rejoice before our Sovereign Lord. He is Lord now, and we will gladly worship before Him in eternity
  - a. Heaven is a place free from sin—free from temptation, free from trial and torment, free of suffering and sadness, free of disaster and destruction.
  - b. Death will no longer threaten us – only eternal life  
**1 Corinthians 15:25-27 NAS** - "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy that will be abolished is death. <sup>27</sup> For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him."
  - c. Most important, Heaven is the presence of Christ. For eternity we will glory in His infinite excellence. We will behold His beauty. Heaven is a place where we will know in full the love of Christ. The communion we thirst for now will be full in eternity
  - d. Christ has designed for us a place of everlasting joy  
 It is described as the new heavens and new earth – a place untainted by sin.

#### Conclusion:

There are several considerations in light of this approaching judgment.

1. Is Jesus your Lord? You will bow now or later. But how glorious it is to have his Lordship over us in life. He is a glorious King.
2. Are you living in light of this approaching Day? It is near like an approaching storm. We can hear the thunder and see the flashing on the horizon.
3. If your hope is in Christ does your life reflect that you know Him?
4. It is also a grand reminder that in Christ all things are being brought to order—from the ravages of sin to the restoration of all things.  
**1 Corinthians 15:24-28 NAS** - "then *comes* the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy that will be abolished is death. <sup>27</sup> For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. <sup>28</sup> And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all."