

Christ's Twofold Estate

Lesson 20: The Second Coming of Christ, Acts 10.42

The last act, Christ's judging the world, is a great, consummate part of His exaltation.

- 1) In that day, His glory as absolute Lord and King will shine forth as the sun.
- 2) The glory of Christ's power and sovereignty will be eminently and illustriously displayed before all. And *this* is the great truth that He commanded men to preach until He comes, Acts 10.42: that it is *He* who was ordained by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead.
- 3) Three things to note in this verse: **1)** Christ is ordained to be the Judge, Acts 17.31; **2)** Christ will judge the living and the dead, 1Pet 4.5; Jude 6; **3)** God the Father has appointed Christ to this work and office, Jn 5.22-23.

Doctrine: *Christ is ordained by God the Father to be the Judge of the living and the dead.*

- I. The certainty of a future judgment.
 - A. We have it from Christ's own mouth, Jn 5.22.
 - B. We have it from the apostolic teaching, Acts 17.31; Rom 2.16.
 - C. The righteousness of God requires it, Gen 18.25; Hab 1.13; Isa 3.10-11. As it is, the wicked often prosper by wickedness and go unpunished. Surely, God will judge, Ecc 3.16-17; 7.15.
 - D. The accountable nature of creatures demands it. We live in a moral universe as moral creatures who are accountable for our actions, Rom 14.12. We are stewards who must give an account of our stewardship, Mt 25.14-15.
 - E. Our conscience testifies to the certainty of judgment. It's a truth engraved on every heart, Rom 1.32; 2.15. The fact that all men have a conscience proves that all men will one day be judged.
- II. What will judgment be like?
 - A. It'll be a *solemn* judgment.
 1. Christ will break out of heaven with the shout of angels and the might of God, 1Th 4.16.
 2. Adam's numerous offspring will stand before their Judge and He will separate the unbelieving from the believing and sentence all men to their eternal estate.
 3. The heart of man cannot fully imagine and grasp what an impression Christ's glorious presence and royal voice will make on men.
 - B. It'll be a *glorious* judgment.
 1. This act of judging will display the glory of Christ before the whole world.
 2. All the inhabitants of earth and hell will be present at once before Him. He will appear in His royal majesty, having no equal. Angels, men, and devils will either rejoice or tremble before Him and acknowledge Him to be the supreme Lord and King of all creation.
 - C. It'll be a *vindicating* judgment.
 1. All the reproach put upon Him on earth will be removed in an instant and forever.
 2. Pilate, Herod, and the high priests will stand quivering before Him. He who was contemptible in their eyes as a man will now appear in the brightness of His glory as GOD. The wicked will not be able to stand in His presence but will be forced to be present to His praise.
 3. It will be a full and universal vindication of the death and suffering of Christ from all the contempt that attended it.
 - D. It'll be an *exact* judgment.
 1. Christ is the searcher of hearts, Rev 2.23. No hypocrite will escape. Every heart will be open and exposed as in the light of day, Heb 4.13.
 - E. It'll be a *universal* judgment, 2Cor 5.10; Rom 14.12; Rev 20.12.
 - F. It'll be a *final* judgment.

1. There can be no appeal from this court, 1Tim 6.15. Once the sentence is passed, its execution is infallible and inescapable.

III. Inferences

- A. Believers are to take heart that they won't be condemned on the day of judgment.
 1. For them to be condemned, Christ would have to give the sentence. But it's certain that He will not. For: **1)** He died to save them from condemnation on account of their sins, Rom 4.25; **2)** He died to secure forgiveness, redemption, and reconciliation with God by the infinite value of His atoning death, Eph 1.7; Col 1.19-20; 2.14; **3)** He was already condemned for all the sins for which they could be condemned, Rom 5.10; 8.3; i.e., **4)** they were already judged in the judgment that was passed on Him when He stood for judgment as their Surety and Representative, Rom 8.3; **5)** they're already seated with Him in the honors of heaven in anticipation of eternal riches to come upon them, Eph 2.6-7; **6)** they were born again on earth to a living and eternal hope and inheritance in Christ in heaven, 1Pet 1.3-4; **7)** they've been kept all the while on earth by faith for an eternal inheritance in glory that cannot be revoked, 1Pet 1.5; **8)** the business of that day will not be to decide their fate but to acknowledge it before a world of men and devils who denied it, Lk 12.8.
- B. It will be utterly miserable for unbelievers in that day.
 1. They will be speechless, hopeless, helpless. Their hands and knees will knock together as they tremble with an unprecedented fear in heart, mind, and body. Pale faces, quivering lips, fainting hearts, and roaring consciences will be their lot.
 - a) It'll be impossible to avoid appearing, 2Cor 5.10. This is a summons of the Great King that cannot be ignored.
 - b) Every unbeliever will be joined by all his accusers as witnesses to appear before Him in God's court. They'll all be there to add their witness to his account.
 - c) It'll be impossible to plead innocence before Christ. It'll be impossible to deny the charges. It'll be impossible to lie to the Searcher of hearts. It'll be impossible to defend himself. Silence will seize him as he'll be forced to admit and acknowledge his guilt.
 - d) There'll be no hope of mercy at that hour, no hope of pardon, no hope of a gospel message, because it'll be too late.
- C. Those who hope to be found in Christ on that day must in these days avoid sin and pursue godliness.
 1. Be meek and patient under all injuries and abuses for Christ's sake, Js 5.7. Be public-hearted Christians, seeking to minister to Christ's distressed Body for His sake, Mt 24.34-40. Be sober and watchful, keeping the golden bridle of moderation on all our affections, Lk 21.34; Phi 4.5; 1Cor 7.29-31. Be diligent and improve all Christ has given you, Mt 25.14-30. Be sincere in your profession and strive in all things to have a clear conscience before both God and men, Acts 24.16.

"In a little while you will come to the last day of your life. Do you have an interest in this blessed Redeemer? There is no sadder sight than a poor, Christless sinner shivering upon the brink of eternity, "Lord, what will become of me?" That this may not be your case, reflect upon what you have heard in these messages. Judge yourself in light of them. Obey the calls of the Holy Spirit in them. Let not your slight and formal spirit float upon the surface of these truths, like a feather upon the water. Get them deeply fixed upon your soul by the Spirit of the Lord, turning them into life and power within you, so animating the whole course of your life that it may proclaim that you are the one who esteems everything as dross that you may win Christ, Phil 3.8-11."

Finis.