

Acts 17:29-34

Jesus: Judge of the World

Proposition: *God's chosen Judge is also the Savior of the world.*

I. The Times of Ignorance are Ended. (v. 30) *God calls all mankind to repent.*

- a. In the Old Epoch, God *overlooked our ignorance. (v. 30a)*
 - i. All human reason and imagination beyond the Gospel may be summed up as *ignorance crowned in idolatry.*
 - ii. In light of the Gospel, ignorance and idolatry are grievous sins which, far from honoring God, *incur God's wrath.*
- b. In the New Epoch, God *commands our repentance. (v. 30b)*
 - i. Repentance means believing *what God says about me.*
 1. *Sin is infinitely vile* because God is infinitely holy. (Ge. 3:13)
 2. *I am personally guilty* of ignorance and idolatry. (Ro. 3:10ff)
 3. *My sin imperils me* because it must be fully repaid. (Jn. 3:18)
 4. *I can't repay my sin*—I'm ignorant and idolatrous! (Ga. 3:10)
 - ii. Repentance means believing *what God says about Christ* (see III)
- c. In the Epoch to Come, God *will punish the unrepentant.* (cf. Ac. 3:19)
 - i. It is a sobering fact that sinners who *never hear* the Gospel can *still die without it.* (Jonah 4:11; Lk. 13:5; Hb. 11:6)
 - ii. It is an even more sobering fact that sinners who *do hear* the Gospel can *still die if they refuse it.* (Ma. 4:1)

II. The Day of Judgement is Fixed. (v. 31a) *God shall judge the world in righteousness.*

- a. The Day is *fixed.* (Ro. 2:16)
 - i. It is *unavoidable*, as God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all, making our need of salvation *even more obvious.*
 - ii. It is *hastening*, as every fleeting day brings sinners nearer to the irrevocable Day, making our need to repent *even more urgent.*
- b. The World will be *judged.* (Ro. 14:10, 12)
 - i. Everyone, everywhere, will *stand before God's bar of judgement.*
 - ii. Everyone, everywhere will *see the vindication of God's judgement*; namely, his divine purposes in mercy and justice. (Mt. 25:21; Ro. 2:5, 6; 9:22, 23; 2 Th. 1:8, 9)
- c. The Judgment will be *righteous.* (Ps. 96:13)
 - i. God *cannot leave sin unpunished* forever.
 - ii. God *will not overlook any sin*, small or great. (Ec. 12:14; Mt. 12:36, 37; Ro. 2:16)

III. The Man God Appointed Shall be Judge. (v. 31b) *God has chosen a man to judge the world, proven by raising him from the dead.*

- a. God sovereignly *chose Jesus*, the God-Man, to *judge the world.*
 - i. In righteousness because, as God, Jesus alone can satisfy God's justice. (Jn. 5:22, 23; Rev. 4:11; Ac. 10:42, 34-36)
 - ii. In love because, as Man, Jesus alone can give God's mercy to Man. (Ep. 1:4ff)
- b. Jesus freely *chose to die* in order to *save the world.* (Ho. 14:2-4; Ro. 8:32)
 - i. *Sinless, Jesus pays* the infinite debt of our guilt by dying the death sinners deserve. (Is. 53:5; Ro. 4:25a; 5:6, 8; 1 Co. 15:3)
 - ii. *Righteous, Jesus rises* from the dead victorious to justify sinners. (Ac. 2:24; Ro. 4:25b; 5:18)
 - iii. *Risen, Jesus proves* by his life that the debt for sin is freely paid. (Ps. 98:12; Is. 53:5; Ro. 3:23-26, esp. v. 25)
 - iv. *Alive, Jesus gives* sinners faith to repent of sin and receive his life. (Ho. 14:2, 3; Jn. 5:24; Ep. 1:19; Hb. 7:24, 25)

IV. Concluding Applications.

- a. *Three key observations.*
 - i. See how *difficult it is for the wise of this world to be saved.* (v. 32)
 - ii. See how *awful it is for all who despise the Gospel.* (v. 33)
 - iii. See how *sovereignly God saves his people.* (v. 34)
- b. *Four reasons to repent.*
 - i. God's *great patience.* (Is. 30:18; Ezk. 33:11; 2 Pt. 3:9)
 - ii. God's *sacred command.* (Lk. 13:5; Ac. 3:19)
 - iii. God's *final judgement.* (Rev. 20:11-15; Lk. 10:20)
 - iv. God's *indescribable gift.* (Ro. 5:15; 2 Co. 9:15; Ep. 2:8-10)
- c. *One last appeal—repent, for your Judge is also your Savior!*