

# The Godly Man's Portion & Sanctuary

## Lesson 8: Calling the Ungodly to the Godly Man's Sanctuary, Part 1

- I. To the ungodly who are *still far* from the Kingdom of God. *Wake up!*
  - A. The darkness which blinds you is a darkness from hell that will lead you to hell if it's not lifted, 2Cor 4.3-4.
  - B. The hardness which has come upon your heart is a hardness that will weigh you down to perdition if it's not softened by the gospel, Rom 1.21-26, 28-32; 2.5; Eph 4.18.
  - C. The impenitence in which you continue will shut you out of heaven forever if you die in your present condition, Isa 48.22.
  - D. In hopes that though you're so near the brink of hell, you may yet be one step short of it, let me speak to your conscience but once more:
    1. Is your life a life that pleases God or is it not? Did God ever promise you that a life of sin would enjoy His peace and grace and love? Can you honestly deny that the life you live is the life of an enemy of God? When you look back over your life, and trace the steps you've trod, and the way you've lived, can you not see the stamp of the devil on it all? Do you need any more proof that you're far from God and only a step away from hell?
    2. And do you intend to stay at this great distance from God until you die? Is there nothing in the Word of God and in the promises of God that you wish was yours? Is there so little in the gospel that you're content to forfeit it all for the pleasures of sin?
    3. Are you content that nothing should prosper with you and that all should be a curse to you? Are you content that a hell of devils should be your eternal sanctuary and that the wrath of God should be your eternal portion? Are you willing to die for your sins and suffer their wages forever? Are you content to say, "Let God damn my soul tomorrow as long as I can have my sins today. I'll take my part among the damned in hell as long as I can enjoy my part with the damned on earth."? —Because that's the voice of every willful refuser of the gospel of Christ. "Does your heart not tremble to think of it? Does your hair not stand on end to behold it? Do your knees not shake in terror to consider what you have done and are still doing, as long as you continue to refuse Christ?"
    4. God has set a day that will be your last. What if *this* is it? God has appointed a Sabbath that will be your last. What if *this* is it? God has appointed your last sermon. What if *this* is it? God has appointed your last warning. What if *this* is it? Are you willing to die as you are?
    5. What if the Lord took *today's* denial and refusal as your *final* answer, and never, ever invited you again to come to Jesus? Are you good with that?
  - E. If your heart's been awakened and it cries out with the Jerusalem sinners, *What must I do?* Then see that you heed this counsel without delay:
    1. Get a deep sense of your dreadful state.
      - a) As a sinner outside of Christ, you're in the body of iniquity, a captive to the devil, a slave of sin, and still under the covenant of works, which curses you with the eternal wrath of God for your sins, Jn 8.34, 44; 2Tim 2.26; Acts 8.23; 1Jn 5.19; Ps 11.6; 49.15. Unless you repent, your very next step may be in hell. Today you walk in sin, tomorrow you may lie down in fire and brimstone. Today you drink sin's pleasures, tomorrow you may drink the cup of God's wrath.
      - b) Is this the state you've been so unwilling to get out of? Is this the state you've been boasting about? Is this the state you've been willing to lose heaven for?

- c) Look at your condition and *tremble*, because there's no hope of repentance unless you first see where you are and tremble at it. Your fool's paradise is your soul's prison. Open your eyes and see what you are, where you are, and where you're headed if you don't get into Christ.
  2. Give a bill of divorce to every sin.
    - a) If you love your life, don't say to a single sin, "Nothing but death will part you and me," because to die with that sin is to suffer its curse. Don't say to a single sin, "Yet a little while, and I'll let you go," because you don't know whether this while might be your last.
  3. Don't see the grace of God in Christ for sinners as a license to continue in sin.
  4. Break off from all your companions in sin.
    - a) Christ and your soul can never be married until your soul and sinners are divorced. There's no hope that the cords of sin can be broken until the knots of evil companions be cut.
  5. Don't ignore your conscience anymore.
    - a) Your conscience is the only friend that God or your soul has left within you. Your will and affections and understanding are all gone. The devil has stolen them away and hired them all out against you. You have nothing left but your conscience. If you abuse it anymore it may never speak again until it speaks unbearably, in hell, forever.
  6. Don't let the greatness of your sins or the difficulty of Christ's terms hinder or discourage you from making a present match with Christ. Don't say His yoke and cross are too grievous for you to bear. And don't say your sins are too many for Him to bear.
    - a) Answer His yoke with His throne; answer His cross with His crown; answer your sins with His infinite merit and mercy; and go immediately to Jesus. If He'll give His life to you to save you, don't be afraid that He gives His laws to you for you to live by.
    - b) Go to Jesus and take with you these promises, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls," "Whoever comes to me I will never cast out," (Mt 11.28-29; Jn 6.37).
  7. Give yourself to the duty of a disciple of Christ and keep close to the ordinances appointed by God for His worship.
    - a) Give yourself daily to private and family prayer.
    - b) Give yourself daily to Bible reading and catechizing.
    - c) Prize, improve upon, and sanctify the Sabbaths. "The Lord on those days comes down upon His Mount to meet your soul, to commune with you, to bless you, to feed you, and fill you with whatever your soul desires or needs. Get yourself to worship to meet your God. But remember when you go to leave all your stuff behind," Isa 58.13-14.
    - d) And take an account of yourself often. Observe your duties. What are they coming to? What kind of change are they producing in you? Are your sins and your soul divorced? Have your companions in sin been abandoned? Are Christ and your soul united and living together in daily communion? Beware that you're never satisfied with praying and hearing instead of believing and repenting.
  - F. Remember these seven directions and give yourself to them, and you can be sure that the God of peace will be with you—because that's the promise, Phil 4.9.
- II. To the ungodly who are *near* to the Kingdom of God. *How long will you be an almost Christian?*