

## *Mk 8.38—The Threat of Final Judgment*

### **The persons to be punished when Christ returns**

- I. The persons to be judged are described in two ways.
  - A. They are ashamed of Christ and of His words.
    1. Their lives are characterized by an unwillingness to be associated with the reproach and shame of Christ and His cross (cf. vv.34, 35, 36).
    2. Christ, who alone deserves their honor, will take their rejection personal.
  - B. They preferred the company of their adulterous and sinful generation to the company of Christ.
    1. They befriended the world, thereby making God their personal and eternal Enemy, Js 4.4.
    2. They lived in pursuit of the world's honor, riches, and pleasures, things which are not from the Father, 1Jn 2.15-17; cf. Ps 1.

### **The punishment threatened and promised**

- I. Judgment Day is called *the terror of the Lord* (2Cor 5.11) because it'll be dreadful for the wicked to appear before Him when He comes on that Day, Lk 21.26; Rev 6.15-17.
  - A. Christ will come to purge the world by a fiery judgment, 2Pet 3.12.
  - B. Christ will come swiftly and suddenly like a thief, 2Pet 3.10.
  - C. Christ will come to hold every man accountable for his words and deeds, 2Cor 5.10; Rom 2.16; Rev. 20.12-13.
  - D. Christ will come to shake both the earth and heavens—as if to loosen every soul from hiding, Heb 12.26.
- II. It's at such a terrible and dreadful hour as this that the Lord will be ashamed of all those who were ashamed of Him.
  - A. And His honoring of you or rejection of you will determine your eternal destiny, cf. Mt 7.22-23.

### **Applications**

- I. For those unprepared to meet the Lord in Judgment.
  - A. Make God your Friend before it's too late, Ps 2.12; Amos 4.12.
  - B. If you delay and die in your sinful state without Christ, you'll suffer untold, eternal misery, Mk 9.47-48; Mt 25.41, 46.
  - C. Christ is calling you, even now, so don't delay. Flee from the wrath to come and fly to Christ for refuge, Mt 11.28; 1Th 1.9-10.
  - D. Christ will receive you today. But if you wait until you stand before Him in judgment, it'll be too late.
- II. For those prepared to meet Christ when He comes.
  - A. See from what Christ says that *we must confess Him before men*, Mt 10.32-33; Heb 3.1; Rom 10.9.
    1. We do this in two ways.
      - a) In speech, Rom 10.10; 2Cor 4.13.
      - b) In life and conduct, Tit 1.16; 3.8; 1Pet 2.9-12.
    2. That faith, then, which does not bring forth the fruit of a confession before men, is a dead faith, which cannot save, James 2.14-26.
  - B. See what a great sin it is to deny Christ, Mt 10.33; Mk 8.38; 2Pet 3.14
  - C. Let Christ's threat stir you up and urge you on to a faithful and sincere practice of this duty of confessing Him before men, as the Spirit has enabled you, 1Cor 12.3.
- III. If Christ will make good on His threats, how much more will He make good on His promises! He'll publicly acquit you, acknowledge you as His, reward all you suffered for Him, and wipe away every tear, Heb 2.10-13; WSC 38.
  - A. Never lose sight of this. In all your trials, fix your eyes and heart on that great and glorious Day when Christ will return for you. For by this hope, you purify yourself and sanctify all your afflictions, 1Jn 3.2-3; 2Cor 4.17-18.
  - B. It's better to have the whole world ashamed of you now than to have Christ ashamed of you when He comes.