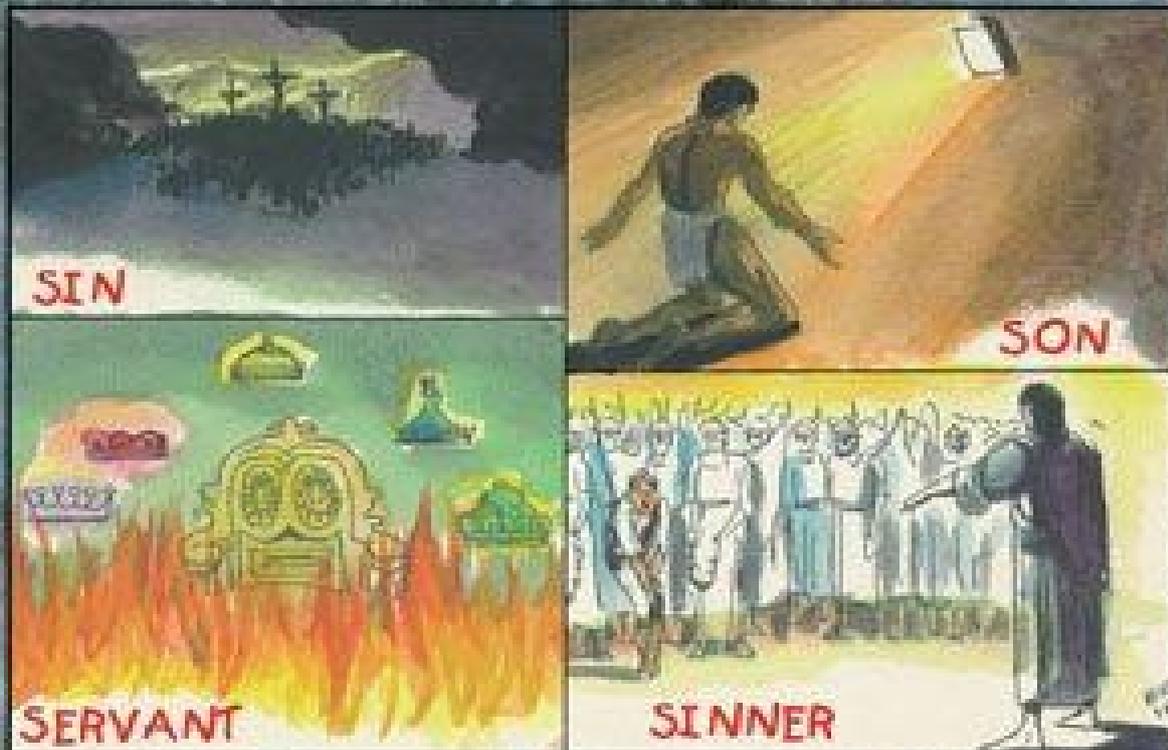


FOUR JUDGMENTS



DR. PETER S. RUCKMAN

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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Would You Like to Know How to be Saved?

Four Judgments

I'm going to talk to you a while about four judgments in the Bible. You know there are actually seven judgments in the word of God. Unsaved people think there is just one general judgment. Most unsaved people think that someday they are going to die, and when they get up to Heaven, God is going to weigh all their good works and all their bad works. If their good works outweigh their bad works they will go to Heaven, and if their bad works outweigh their good works, they will go to Hell, and if they come out in the middle they will go to purgatory or someplace else. But the Bible teaches seven distinct judgments. For example, there's the judgment of sin at Calvary on Christ. There's the daily self-judgment of the believer after he gets saved. There's the Judgment Seat of Christ, where the Christian will be judged after he goes on to be with the Lord. There's the Great White Throne Judgment of the unsaved dead where the Lord will judge unsaved people. Those are four of them, but in addition to those, God will also judge the Jews during Daniel's Seventieth Week, the Great Tribulation. And when Christ comes back in Matthew 25, He'll judge the nations. That's six of them. And the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 6:3, **“Know ye not that we shall judge angels?”** That's seven of them. So you have seven judgments in the Bible, and I'm going to talk about four of these. I'm going to talk about the main four.

1 — Calvary

If you have a Bible, turn to Romans 4:5. This is the first judgment. This judgment is a judgment on SIN. At this judgment, you are judged as a sinner. Romans 4:5 says,

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

A man is saved by believing—without works. **“To him that worketh not** [do you see that?], **but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”** The only kind of faith that counts for righteousness in that Bible is the kind that doesn’t work—**“to him that worketh not....”** Now, if you’re an unsaved man, do you know what you’ll do? You’ll turn to James 2, and damn yourself on a verse of Scripture. The road to Hell is paved with good intentions, and it is also paved with Scriptures taken out of context. If you want to go to Hell, I can give you fifteen verses on which to go to Hell just as sure as you’re sitting there. I’m not just talking. If you want to go to Hell and use Scripture, Satan can put you in Hell with Scripture just as well as he can put you in Hell with anything else. You have to be careful what you do with that Book. You can’t mess around with that Book. You don’t run around there to James, written to the **“twelve tribes”** of Israel (James 1:1) to damn your soul when you can get to Heaven in Romans. And Romans is written to a bunch of Gentiles. You folks are a bunch of Gentiles. That Book says, **“to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”**

Now, why is that? Well, the reason why is that when Jesus Christ died on that cross, God

“made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

And when Jesus Christ died on Calvary’s cross, God put your sins on Him. Listen: He became sin! Get that? *He became sin!* Not just *bearing* your sins—which He did. Not just taking away your sins—which He did. *He became sin!*

Jesus on Calvary’s cross became the personification of sin, so much so that He said, **“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up”** (John 3:14).

Jesus Christ likened Himself to the devil, a serpent hanging on a pole. God **“made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”** Now listen, do you want to go to New Jerusalem when you die and be with God? All right, trust Jesus Christ! Do you want to go to Hell? Trust something else. You ask, “What?” Take your pick. It’s a free country. There are just as many ways to Hell as there are people. A lady said to me one time in Pensacola, “Well, Brother Ruckman, we’re all working to get to the same place.” I said, “Yeah, and if you’re not careful, you’re liable

to make it.” Now, of course, I knew what she meant. She meant we’re all working to get to Heaven, so we’re all going to make it. That’s how you *don’t* make it. You don’t get to Heaven by proving what a fine fellow you are. You go to Heaven by trusting Somebody who took your sins in your place. If you want to go to Heaven, trust Jesus Christ. If you want to go to Hell, trust something else. One way is as good as another.

If you want to go to Hell, your liquor will damn you. That will fix you up! You take dope? That’ll fix you up! You take fornication, adultery, drunkenness, rape, mugging, lying, swearing, killing, stealing, cheating, so forth and so on—they will fix you up too! Two kinds of people go to Hell—those who do nothing and those who do everything. And if you want to go to Hell, just trust anything else.

Do you want to trust your sacraments? That’s a good way to Hell. Do you want to trust your church? That’s another good way to Hell. Do you want to trust baptism? That’s a good way to Hell. Do you want to trust the Ten Commandments? That’s a great way to Hell. They go to Hell that way everyday. Do you want to trust your feelings? Want to trust your experience? If you want to go to Hell, just take your pick.

Now, if you want to go to Heaven, trust Jesus Christ. A fellow says, “Yeah, but what if you trust Him and....” Shut your mouth! That’s the trouble with folks—always trying to get ahead of God. I’m talking about *how to get to Heaven*.

Now, if you want to get to Heaven trust Jesus. “Yeah, but what about....” Well, just shut your mouth and just wait a minute. Control yourself; I mean, take it easy. We’ll talk about that later. I’m not talking about what a Christian does *after* he’s saved. I’m talking about how to *get* saved.

You want to get saved? Trust Jesus Christ. You want to go to Hell? Trust something else.

Back in the old days when the pioneers used to go across this country, they’d get to the flats of Kansas and Oklahoma and out there in Nebraska. Sometimes a prairie fire would start. (Have any of you fellows ever tried to put out a brush fire in a forty mile an hour wind?) Brother, that grass back in 1880 would get four, five, or six feet high, and that prairie fire would start across there. If there was some pioneer and his horse going across that prairie, do you think he’d take time out to try to run from that thing? Why, he’d beat his horse to death. Do you know what he’d do? He’d get off that horse and strike tinder and flint and start him a little fire right there and backfire that thing, and when that little thing would burn out ahead of him, he’d take his horse and step into the burned place. You see? When the prairie fire caught up with him, it couldn’t burn him. Do you know why? Because in the place where he was standing, *it had already been burned out*. I said, “Because in the place where he was standing, *it had already been burned out*.”

You can’t try a man twice for the same offence. That’s double-jeopardy. Some of you folks trusted Christ and His shed blood, then some sin comes up in your life; you get to sweating blood and thinking, “Well, I wasn’t saved—well, I think I was saved...well, was I saved or wasn’t I, or did I do it or not?” Listen! You put your faith in the shed blood, and the wrath of God has already hit, and it is not going to hit twice in the same place. The next time the wrath of God hits, it is not going to hit at Calvary. It hit the helpless back of

His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and if you've trusted the blood, you're safe. You're safe for time. You're safe for eternity. You want to go to Heaven? Trust Christ! You want to go to Hell? Trust something else! Just like that.

The other day I was taking Rachel, Laura, and my wife somewhere, and a bee got in the car. It stung Laura, and she hollered and screamed. It wasn't a big bee—just a little old bee, you know. But she hollered and screamed. The bee was still in the car buzzing around, and I slapped at him a few times, and she was worried about the bee biting her again. My wife said, "Well, honey, he can't bite you again because the sting is gone." See? That's it, brother. The sting of death is sin, brother; when that sting was stuck in Jesus Christ, that bee was *de-stung*, and you can't get stung again with that. You may get stung with some other things, but we'll talk about that later.

I heard a preacher the other night preaching in Crestview, Florida. He had discipleship all messed up with salvation. You never heard such a mess in all your life. That poor soul was standing there talking about getting through the "strait gate" and didn't know where the gate was and didn't have the gate; talking about "agonizing" and "striving" to get through something he never even saw and nobody there saw. He was talking about "forsaking all and following the Lord," you know, and you couldn't take one sin to Heaven, so if you didn't dump all of your sins before you went through the gate you couldn't make it. If you picked them back up on the other side, you probably didn't really come through the gate. He was in the biggest mess you ever saw. Now, *discipleship* and serving the Lord is over here in Judgments Two and Three, but the judgment against sin is here at Number One—Calvary. You want to get to Heaven? Trust Jesus Christ! You want to go to Hell? Trust something else. That's all there is! That's all there ever has been.

If you want to mess up a Campbellite or Charismatic, make them give you a message on *imputation*. Say, "Hey, boy, tell me something about imputation." *Imputation* is a Bible word. That chapter you are reading says,

"Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin" (Rom. 4:8).

What is that thing? Look at verse 7,

"Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered."

See that thing? Do you know what God says about somebody? He says, "You may sin, but I won't charge your sins to you." Boy, that'll take some of the brethren and stand their hair on end. A fellow sits back there saying, "Well, I don't know. Well, you can't tell me a fellow can do this and that and still be saved. Well, you can't tell me...." You can't tell some folks anything!

That Bible says, **"Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."** Now, that's *somebody*. That's somebody. Do you know where my sins are? They are imputed to Jesus Christ. Do you know where His righteousness is? I've got it! You say, "How did you get it?" I got it as a Christmas present—it was free. The Bible says **"the free gift"** (Rom. 5:15–16, and 18). You want to go to Heaven? Trust Jesus Christ. You want to go to Hell?

Trust something else.

When God Almighty looks down from Heaven, there are two books lying around. One Book is the record of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and that Book is a sinless, perfect Book; there isn't a blot or error in it. There's no smear in it. There is no filth or slime in it. He's a perfect, sinless, holy man. On the cover of that Book it says, "This is the life of the Lord Jesus Christ." God looks down at my record, and my record looks so bad it would raise a blister on a brick wall at fifty feet. It has all kinds of errors, all kinds of mistakes, all kinds of sins, all kinds of wickedness, all kinds of selfishness and covetousness and godlessness; and that book says, "*This is the record of Peter S. Ruckman.*" And one day I came to Christ and said, "My burdens are too heavy for me to bear, and I can't make it."

And the Lord said, "OK, tell you what I'll do. You want to change books? I'm in the bookkeeping business."

I said, "Yeah, let's swap."

The Lord said, "OK, I'll swap with you." God took the perfect, righteous life of His Son and gave it to Pete Ruckman, and the Book said, "*This is the life of Pete Ruckman.*" I have the righteousness of God. I don't give a flip what you *think* about it. I couldn't care less! If I go out of this building tonight by myself, I've still got the righteousness of God. You know what God did? God took my dirt and slime and filth and wrote down in that book, "*This is the life of my Son, Jesus Christ,*" and impute my sins to Him. Ask some of the brethren to bring a message on *that* and watch them begin to be all thumbs.

We've got a generation.

"Well, I share it."

"Well, I think it."

"Well, I feel it."

"Well, I hope it."

"Well, I guess."

"Well, love, love, peace, peace, hug me, hug me, kiss me, hold my hand." Hey, boy! What about that doctrine? What about that imputation of God's righteousness? "**Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.**"

All right, Judgment Number One—the first judgment fell on the helpless back of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, on Calvary's cross. The wrath of God fell on Him, and He said, "**My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**" (see Matt. 27:46). The first judgment was past, and the first judgment is the judgment on sin.

2—Confession

The next judgment is judgment on a SON. You take the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. You trust Him. You receive Him. You believe on Him. You're able to stand and sing,

“My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand.
All other ground is sinking sand.”

You get saved, get born again, and you're on shouting ground. You're walking a foot off the ground, and you think you'll never sin again, you'll never love sin again, and you'll always hate sin the rest of your life. You're mad at the devil for messing you up, and you get full of righteous indignation (which is good) and full of zeal for God (which is good), and you think, “Boy, I'm living in Beulah Land. I'm on cloud nine!”

Then, all of a sudden, something comes up in your life. Up that thing comes, and as soon as that thing comes up some Campbellite comes around and says, “Well, you weren't really saved because you weren't baptized according to Acts 2:38.” You go down and join the Campbellite church. They have nothing in them except former Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodists.

Something will come up in your life. About the time something comes up and you start doubting your salvation, around will come a Charismatic and say, “Well, what you need is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. That's what you need. The trouble is you got saved, but you didn't get the Holy Ghost, see.” And they get you all messed up. They get you messed up on two different judgments.

When you came to Christ you didn't come as a SON. You came as a SINNER. You were not His son when you came. Don't try to kid yourself and say, “Well, I was a child of God when I came to Christ.” You were not a child of God *until* you came to Christ, brother. We've got a thing going on today all up and down this country that when a man talks as plain and clear and rough as I do, they think he's a dirty, old, mean dictator like Adolph Hitler. Do you know why that is? They were all raised on cream puffs and raisins and milk and lanolized, starched buttermilk, sugar, molasses, and honey. All this bunch going around here—where do they get this plan of salvation that you “give” yourself to Christ? *Christ doesn't want you!* Is that clear? Give *yourself* to Christ? Look, when I got saved I didn't give *myself* to Christ, and if I did, the Lord wouldn't have me. I came to Christ as somebody needy, and God gave Pete Ruckman something!

What a generation of people! “I gave myself to Christ.” *He sure got a bum deal when he got you, bud.* Amen. Amen. Amen.

I tell you, that stuff is going on all over this country. On the radio twenty-four hours a day, all this stuff is going on. “Give yourself to Christ.” “Commit yourself to Christ.” “Share your experience with others.” You can't get to Heaven by sharing your experience.

You get to Heaven by trusting Christ. And when you come to Jesus Christ, you don't come to give Him anything but your dirty, rotten sins. *Give God something?* What would you give Him? I mean, God gave you air, and God gave you breath, and God fed you to this moment. The reason why you're not dead right now is because *God* gives you life. Who are you to sit there and talk about giving *God* something? Who do you think you are? The fourth member of the Trinity?

We've got a bunch of people around this country—man, they're half crazy. You get up and talk about the truth, and they think *you're* crazy.

All right, you get saved, you become a child of God; then you sin. I mean,
“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

I mean,

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us,”
John says in 1 John 1:8.

When I preach this message I draw a man with a loincloth on for the sake of decency, but the fact of the matter is that after you get saved and you come before God to confess your sins as a disobedient child, you don't come with a stitch on you. You come naked. You say, “Where's that?” That's Hebrews 4:13,

“But all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

After you get saved and find yourself doing wrong, you're supposed to do something. What are you supposed to do? You are supposed to judge your sins and confess your sins. Now, wait a minute. You *can't get to Heaven* by judging and confessing your sins. You *stay in fellowship* by judging and confessing your sins. Get the thing right. There are people who keep thinking, “I'll get to Heaven because I confess my sins.” You don't get to Heaven by confessing your sins. *You get to Heaven by trusting Jesus Christ*. If you want to go to Hell, trust something else. Trust your confession. If you have a Bible, turn to 1 Corinthians 11:31. You want to get it right. Get it right. That Book says,

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

“The word of truth” has proper divisions. One of those divisions is the different judgments. That's what we're talking about tonight.

Look at 1 Corinthians 11:31,

“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.”

“But when we are judged,” we go to Hell, right? *No*, that isn't right. When we're judged, we're what?

“But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be

condemned with the world” (1 Cor. 11:32).

A child of God does not go to Hell. He’s whipped. He’s chastened! You fathers and mothers should understand that. You that have a son, how long is he your son? Why, *forever!*

I’ve got three boys. Their names are Peter, Mike, and David. Do you know how long those fellows will be my sons? Forever! Do you know why? *They’re born of my seed.* They can’t ever cease to be my sons. When they die, on their tombstone it will say “Ruckman,” and if they changed their name and took another name, they’d still be my sons.

Do you know how long you’re a son of God after you get saved? Forever! You can’t undo that thing. Do you know the laws of this country and the laws of this state teach that when you adopt a child and take that child into your family you can’t ever disinherit or disown that child? And when God adopted you and brought you in, He swore by Himself that He’d never turn you loose, and He won’t turn you loose. Folks say, “Yeah, but what if you....” Well, we’ll get to that in a minute. The trouble is, you’re too quick. You’re too quick. You want to go to Heaven? Trust Christ. You want to go to Hell? Trust something else. You want to stay in fellowship with the Father? Confess your sins. You want to stay out of fellowship? Just let the thing go.

Confession of sins has to do with your *fellowship* with the Lord and the Lord’s fellowship with you. If one of my boys wrecked the car and burned down the house, and when I put him on the carpet about it he just stood there, looked at me, and said, “Well, I couldn’t help it,” and didn’t apologize, didn’t say he was sorry, didn’t offer to make restitution, didn’t try to make it right, I’d be put out with him. I’d be mad at him. He’s my *son*, but things aren’t right between us.

When you’re a child of God and you don’t confess your sins and tell the Lord about them and judge your sins and make an effort to put them away, the Lord is put out with you. This old stuff about, “Well, the Lord isn’t angry....” Yes, He is angry. He’ll chasten you. When a father gets upset, he’ll get out a whip. And some of God’s people take a terrible whipping . Now, there may be whippings you have to take, but there’s one whipping you never have to take. *You never have to be whipped for not confessing your sins.* Confess them. God knows, you’re going to get in enough trouble without asking for it. Why ask for it? Do you know why some of our Holiness brothers have so many healers? *Because they’re sick all the time.* Do you know why so many of them are sick all the time? *They won’t confess their sins.* Do you know why they won’t confess their sins? Because they’ve read in the Bible where it says,

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9).

So the dumb thumps thought to themselves, “Well, look here, if I got saved, I don’t sin.” So the first time they sin they think, “Well, I didn’t sin willfully. It was just a *mistake.*” So they don’t confess their sins, and pretty soon the whole cotton-picking

church is standing in the healing line. That Bible, in 1 Corinthians 11:30–31, says,

“For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.”

Now, I’m not saying that all sickness is due to unconfessed sin. I’m not saying that. But I’m saying, “Why take a double load, brother?” I mean, if you’re going to get some more chastening anyway, why ask for it?

I told you this before, but it’s worth repeating. To me, it’s one of the most outstanding things I’ve ever seen in my life, and I saw it in Pensacola in 1952.

I was driving north on North Davis Highway one day, and on the right hand side I saw a big, fat, colored woman. She must have weighed about two hundred pounds. She had a little boy about four years old by the hand, and she had been told to take him someplace. I don’t know where, but she was taking him, and that kid didn’t want to go. That kid was hollering, screaming, yelling, and squalling, and his feet were hitting the ground about every six steps. She was humming, “La de das, de, de da,” and he was going boink! boink! boink! I saw that kid going down the street, and I said to myself, “Do you know what that is? That’s a picture of a disobedient Christian going home to Heaven.” I mean, the Holy Spirit will get a hold of you and take you home to Heaven whether you want to go or not. If you want to go third class, OK, or second class with blood running off your back, help yourself; but you’re going. *You’re going.*

Folks say, “Well, what about a son of God....” You wouldn’t burn your children in an oven! (Unsaved people use that as proof that God wouldn’t burn an unsaved sinner in an oven, but *unsaved sinners are not God’s children*. Christ said He’s going to take them and

“cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth,”
Matt. 13:42.

You never read anywhere that God would take one of His *sons* and put him into a furnace of fire with wailing and gnashing of teeth any more than you’d take one of *your* sons.

Folks get worried to death about nothing. I talked to a lady one time in Ohio, and she kept worrying about her salvation. Her husband was a preacher. We were sitting there at the table, and he asked me if I would deal with her and try to give her some sense about her salvation. He had tried and couldn’t do anything with her. A minister’s wife should have assurance of her salvation. She didn’t. We talked for a while, and finally I said, “What are you counting on to save you?”

She said, “Well, I know what the answer to that is.”

I said, “Well, don’t give me that. Tell me what you’re counting on.”

She said, “What do you mean?”

I said, “You’re going to die someday. You believe that, don’t you?”

She said, “Oh, yes.”

I said, “You *believe* in Hell, don’t you?”

She said she believed in Hell.

I said, “Well, you don’t want to go, do you?”

She said, “No, I don’t want to go.”

I said, “Well, *what* are you counting on to keep you out?”

She said, “Well, I know what you’re supposed to say.”

I said, “Don’t tell me *that*. Tell me what you’re counting on.”

She said, “Well, I’m just counting on the blood of Jesus Christ.”

And I shook my head and said, “I’ve got some bad news for you.”

She turned pale and said, “What, what, what?”

I said, “You’re going to have to go to Heaven anyway. You’re trying to make it to Hell, but you’re not going to make it!” Amen, brother, amen. I tell you, if you’re counting on that to save you, you’re going home, head first or feet first, but you’re going.

Somebody said, “Well, what if a Christian man lived like the devil?” Well, he’ll get sick. You say, “What if he keeps on?” *The Lord will kill him*. You say, “What if he doesn’t confess his sins?” He’ll probably wind up like Lot. People go around saying, “Well, now, if Peter hadn’t confessed his sins, he’d have gone to Hell. If David hadn’t confessed his sins, he’d have gone to Hell.” Lot didn’t confess his. I would like to see in your Bible where Lot ever confessed his sins. *He wound up drunk in a cave*.

You get to talking like that, and these self-righteous people say, “Oh, out there at that church they teach you can get saved and get drunk.” “Out there at that church they teach you can get saved and do what you want to do.” You have not heard me say that one time tonight. If you’re a Christian, you can lose your testimony, your character, your joy, your fellowship, your witness, your health, your life, your rewards, and your inheritance. You never heard a Bible believer in your life say a Christian couldn’t lose *something*, but if you’re talking about your soul, that’s something else.

OK, you got it? You want to go to Heaven? Trust Jesus Christ. You want to go to Hell? Trust something else. You want to live a happy life in fellowship with the Lord? Keep the record clean. You want to be miserable? Let it get dirty and leave it dirty. That’s all there is to it.

3—The Judgment Seat of Christ

Take your Bible and turn to 2 Corinthians 5:10. The Bible has proper divisions, and if you fail to observe those divisions, you're going to get messed up on doctrine. Whether you know it or not, the first thing for which the Bible was written was *doctrine*. We have a horror today of doctrinal teaching and preaching for some reason by a bunch of flesh-mad, carnal Humanists who just believe in feeling this and feeling that and feeling everything else. They're going by *feeling* instead of what God says. And the Bible says,

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine” (2 Tim. 3:16) first.

The first thing for which Bible was written was to show you what was right and what was wrong; after that, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. I'll grant you that, afterwards, it is practical, but not first. **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine...”** That's the first one.

Now, this is the doctrine of the judgments. You're judged at the cross for sin; you're judged every day as a son; and one of these days when you die and face the Lord Jesus Christ, you're going to be judged as a servant.

You don't escape *judgment*, even as a child of God. You escape the judgment of Hell, but you can't escape *self-judgment*. You have to judge yourself, and you can't escape Christ's judging you (2 Cor. 5:10). Look at it:

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Now, people get the Bible all screwed up and make that verse refer to the White Throne Judgment. That has nothing to do with the White Throne Judgment. At the White Throne Judgment, saved people from the church age are not being judged. At the White Throne Judgment, books are opened. At the White Throne Judgment, it isn't said to be the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is said to be **“a great white throne”** (Rev. 20:11). You've got to get it straightened out.

All right, the Judgment Seat of Christ is found in 2 Corinthians 5, it's found in 1 Corinthians 3, and it's mentioned in Romans 14. Although if you've got a new Bible, you'll find the one in Romans 14 has been messed with to read, “the judgment seat of *God*,” which it is not. It's the Judgment Seat of *Christ*.

At the Judgment Seat of Christ you'll receive rewards for what you did for the Lord Jesus Christ *after* you were saved. You did badly while serving the Lord? All right, you get whipped for it right there. You do something good for the Lord? All right, you get rewarded for it right there.

Let's get it clear. You do not go to Hell for the sins you commit *as a Christian*. That's taken care of at the *cross*. You don't go to Hell or Heaven because of service you do for

the Lord. You can serve the Lord all your life and go to Hell just like a greased ball bearing on a slippery plank. You are not saved by *working*. You want to get to Heaven? Trust Christ. You want to go to Hell? Go to work for the Lord. That's the quickest way to Hell you ever saw.

There are people out on the street passing out *Watchtowers*. They'll work like dogs, people going door to door, knocking on the doors, passing out the literature, working themselves day and night and night and day, and get nothing but the lake of fire when they get through.

You are not saved by working. You get rewarded for working. All right, in 1 Corinthians 3:11–15, he says about this judgment,

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”

I was a Roman Catholic before I was saved, and my priest at St. Michael's said, “Well, you see, it says a fellow is saved **‘yet so as by fire,’** so he goes to purgatory and burns for a while and then after a while he gets out. He's saved by fire.” They can sure get it fixed up, can't they?

That passage you're reading right there says nothing at all about that fellow burning. Verse 15 says, **“If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”** **“The fire shall try every man’s work”**—*not the man*. **“If any man’s work abide”**—it's talking about the *works* burning, not the man. You have a perfect picture of that in the Old Testament. The saint's name is Lot. When Lot goes out of Sodom and Gomorrah, his *works* burn up, and his house burns up, and his property burns up, and he loses everything in the fire. The fire doesn't touch him. It doesn't touch *him*. He is saved, **“yet so as by fire.”** At the Judgment Seat of Christ there are five crowns passed out. I won't have time to talk about that tonight because that's another message in itself, but of the five crowns that are passed out, there's a soul winner's crown. There's a crown for feeding the flock. There's a crown for the Christian who is temperate and moderate in all things. There's a crown for the man who endures temptation. There's a crown for the Christian who wants Christ to come and looks forward to His coming back. Those five crowns are found in the New Testament. *Those are earned rewards.*

I heard that fellow preach over there in Crestview the other night, and he had that thing so screwed up he didn't know where he was. He was saying that if you took a drink one time or if you committed fornication one time or if you did this or that one time, you were going to Hell because the unrighteous wouldn't **“inherit the kingdom of God.”** The Kingdom of God is not Heaven, and the Kingdom of God is not New Jerusalem. The Kingdom of God after the Church Age is something on this earth when Christ comes back. And God's people are warned about those sins in Galatians 5:19–21. Saved people are

warned about committing the *same sins* that unsaved people commit. I'll tell you something, if you don't believe that, you haven't been saved long, or you've been hanging out with the wrong crowd. You know as well as I know, things unsaved people commit, Christians commit, too. You know it as well as you know your own name. These pious folks go around—"The Holy Ghost," "Bless you, brother," "Hallelujah, glory to God," "I don't pay my debts, either," etc.

I read the other night that a Christian rock group is coming into town to put on a concert someplace—a "Christian" rock group. Of course, they're all *sinless*. You just bet ya! Now, you take that kind of business. I'm not here to encourage you to sin. I am here to tell you not to let somebody mess you up and make you think God has forsaken you and abandoned you and you've lost the Holy Spirit when the flesh gets the upper hand. When the flesh gets the upper hand, judge it and confess it and go on for God. That's safe doctrine. Man, that's good doctrine! That's sound doctrine!

You take these folks that profess to be sinless. When they finally do mess up, they get down in the gutter and stay down in the gutter. Did you ever notice that? "I was saved once, but I lost it." Well, get back on your feet, stupid! "Ain't no use getting back on my feet because I tried it once and I couldn't live it. Ain't no use to try it again." That's a damnable doctrine, man.

I'll tell you the best doctrine. If you mess up, get up and go on for God. If you get knocked down, get up again. Get up, get up, and get up until you're knocked down permanently. And then get up one more time.

At the Judgment Seat of Christ you're going to be tried for the *motive* for your service. The Bible says, "**the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.**" Of what *sort*. Did you get that? What kind, quality—the sort it is. Did you ever stop to think about how little in life you've done just for the Lord Jesus Christ? I've often thought about it. If I went home tonight and took out a piece of paper and had to write down the things I've done since I've been saved just for the Lord Jesus Christ, they sure wouldn't amount to much. Folks say, "Well, you preach." I enjoy preaching. You get your reward for preaching while you're preaching, man. And you get paid for it too. Why should a fellow get to the Judgment Seat of Christ and get rewarded for preaching when he got paid for it all the time he was doing it down here? Folks are weird, you know. They just don't think about those things. Folks say, "Well, you did this and that." Yeah, but I *enjoyed* doing that. Somebody got the benefit out of it. My kids got a benefit out of it. My wife got a benefit out of it. The question is what have I done just for *Jesus Christ* that I got nothing out of but a pain in the neck. That's the kind of stuff you want to look for.

Every child of God in this building should look for a chance to stick out his neck for Jesus Christ where it won't profit him anything and won't profit anybody he knows. It'll just be a blessing to Him. I'll tell you, man, I wouldn't get to be sixty (and I didn't get to be forty) without sticking my neck out for Jesus Christ and making a perfect fool out of myself for Christ on at least two dozen occasions. If I were you and I hadn't made a perfect fool out of myself once or twice for Jesus Christ, I'd find some way to do it, brother. Amen, amen, amen. Haven't you made a big enough fool out of yourself for some other things in your life? Yeah, you bet your life you have! Some of you, sitting back there

so pious, so “Me, I never did...” Oh, yes, you did! You might as well make a fool out of yourself for the Lord as for the devil or for some friend or some woman or some man. Amen, amen, amen! Test motive; test motive. What did you ever do for the Lord just because it was *right* and He wanted you to do it and He asked you to do it and you knew by doing it, it would please Him? That’s what will cut the mustard at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

I’m not going to spend any time tonight knocking some of the big works in this country. I thank God for them and hope they get bigger. But I’m not going to kid you or kid myself about *bigness* being a sign of success in God’s sight. I’m not going to kid myself about that. Wurmbbrand never did run 2,000 in Sunday School, and he spent three years in solitary confinement. Haralan Popov was in jail thirteen years. He didn’t have any buses. He didn’t have any property. You’re not going to tell me that when we get up to glory, Haralan Popov and Allen Francis Gardiner, who died down there in the Falkland Islands without a convert, and Nate Saint, who got killed over there in Ecuador by the Indians, are *going to be waiting on the tables* of these fellows running 3,000 in Sunday school. *I don’t believe it!* You know what I think? I think the Lord looks on the heart.

I know an old boy up there in Alabama someplace near Montgomery. I forget his name now. I had a meeting for him a couple years back. That country preacher has got an independent Baptist church going up there right in the middle of Lottie Moon: the RAs, GAs, and the Sunbeams and everything else—you know. He’s got that thing going up there, and he’s running about 150 in Sunday school and baptizes about two a year. You see articles in some of these Christian newspapers, “If you’re not baptizing a hundred a year, you’re not doing anything for the Lord.” “You ought to build a great church.” That fellow has visited every person—if you put a compass down at his church and drew a circle around that church eight miles, that fellow has visited every man, woman, and child in the eight mile area that ever came in that territory or ever went out, faithfully proclaiming the word of God. Don’t you tell me that at the Judgment Seat of Christ he’s going to have to take a backseat to some of these big boys. I don’t believe it!

Question: who was the Methodist preacher under whose ministry Charles Haddon Spurgeon was saved? Anybody know his name? Isn’t that strange? You all know Charles Haddon Spurgeon, but do you know the guy that got him saved? Let me ask you this: under whose ministry was Jack Hyles saved? He was raised in Paris, Texas. Do you know where Paris, Texas, is? That’s somewhere near Sandpit Gulch.

Now listen, you be faithful to what God has given you to do and stick your neck out for the Lord, and you’ll get your rewards.

Let’s get the thing straight. You want to go to Heaven? Trust Jesus Christ! You want to go to Hell? Trust something else. You want to live in fellowship with God and enjoy your salvation? Stay confessed up. You want to be miserable and unhappy? Let the thing go. You want rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ? Go in the vineyard today and go to work. You want to go to the Judgment Seat of Christ and have no rewards? Then just sit down and do nothing but feed your face and raise children. There’s hundreds of Christians in the country living just like animals. They just raise children, feed their bellies, and die and go on home. If you want rewards, go to work. You are not *saved* by working. You are

not *saved by confessing*. *You are saved by the blood!* *You are kept happy* by confessing, and you are *rewarded* for working. Get them right!

4—The White Throne Judgment

Now, take your Bible and turn to Revelation 20:11. We're ready for the last one. In this passage he says,

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the Heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” Verse 15 says, **“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”** Verses 13 and 14 tell us, **“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and Hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and Hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”**

This is the last judgment.

When folks reject the Bible, while professing to believe it, and talk about judgment, they're nearly always talking about this judgment, and they don't know anything about the other judgments. That is, they've trusted Christ; then they're trying to get to Heaven by Christ and confession and service. They figure someday they'll get up there and see whether they're saved or not. See how they mess it up? They don't study. They don't rightly divide. They get the thing all messed up.

A man that comes up at this last judgment is a man that is going to be judged because he didn't accept God's provision. This is a judgment of SINNERS. When a sinner doesn't take God's remedy for sin, the Lord Jesus Christ, then he hits this judgment. When he hits this judgment, he hits the judgment in the filthy rags of his own self-righteousness, because the Bible says, **“all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags”** (Isa. 64:6). When he stands up there, he'll look like he's wearing a used camouflage net. He'll stand there and be judged for every idle word:

“That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (Matt. 12:36).

If I were an unsaved man and heard such a verse, I'd be terror stricken. I'd do something about it. You say, “You just *think* you would.” I know I would! You say, “How do you know you would?” Because the first time I heard the plan of salvation, I got saved. *The first night!* You wouldn't sing two stanzas on me, brother. I'll tell you, on a Sunday in March of 1949, I was in a church, and that congregation began to sing, “Just as I am without one plea.”

They didn't get through the first stanza before I was down the aisle. You say, “Why? What were you worrying about?” Going to Hell. You say, “Ah, nothing to worry about.” I don't know about you. I know about me. I was worrying about going to Hell.

I don't see how a man can look himself in the mirror in the morning and tell himself that he wouldn't go to Hell if it weren't for the grace of God. I don't understand that.

Let me ask you something: if everything you've *done* and *said* and *thought* were put out here tonight on a big screen in full color with full sound for two hours, could these people here stand to look at it? Oh, we've got a lot of pious folks up and down this country! Listen, there's nothing that walks in this country above fifteen years old that could stand to have the whole thing put right out with the sounds accompanying it. You couldn't stand it! You'd get sick at your stomach, man. There would be people passing out all over this building. Well, if you're not going to trust Christ, that's where you come up—at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Now, for a minute I'm going to take a verse out of context. I'm going to take that marriage supper in the book of Matthew (which doesn't really apply to this situation, but it still has some great spiritual applications in it) and illustrate the reality of a man coming to this judgment unprepared, clad in the filthy rags of his own self-righteousness. Do you know what one of the real terrors of this judgment is going to be? One terror of this judgment is going to be that when you face God, there is not going to be anything under your feet. People who confuse the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25 with the Judgment Seat of Christ can't read very well. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, you're up there with the Lord, about to come back to this earth. Man, at the White Throne Judgment there isn't any earth to which to come back! Heaven and earth have melted with a fervent heat, and the Heaven and earth have passed away and burned up (2 Pet. 3:10).

At the Last Judgment (if you hit that thing), you'll be standing out there in outer space, nothing under your feet, twenty billion light-years down. You'll look up and see a light so bright you can't look at it. No man can look at God that way. You look back down again. A voice will come at you like the sound of many waters and the Lord will say, "OK, you've got a chance to speak. Now, speak! What do you plead? Guilty or not guilty?" *Nolo contendere*. No contention. And if you say, "Innocent," He'll say, "All right, let's see the record."

Out comes the screen and away she goes, boy! You know what I bet you? If I were a betting man, I'd bet you everything I'm worth that before that thing is one-quarter through you'll be screaming, "Stop it! Stop it! Stop it! Stop it!" Can you imagine Michael, Gabriel, Moses, Peter, James, John, Paul, and Moody, Torrey, Finney, Whitefield, and Spurgeon, and all your saved friends, relatives, and neighbors and your saved family watching the details of your secret life? You know what you'll do, friend? You'll say "Amen" to your own damnation. When you go off the rim of the universe and go down twenty billion light-years into that lake of fire, you'll scream "Amen!" all the way down. That will be a terrible time, boy. I don't know how *you* feel about it. I know how *I* feel about it.

"'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved."

Thank God, I'm not going to have to stand there and give an account. You say, "How do you know you're not?" Already burned out! Don't you remember that first judgment? Already burned out! Someone says, "I want a second chance!" *That'll be your second chance*. You've been down in Hell forty years, one hundred years, a thousand years, and

the Lord will bring you out and give you a chance to go from Hell into the lake of fire. You want to call that a *chance*? You want to take it? I wouldn't advise you to take it. You think you're smart. This old dumb hillbilly preacher yelling at you, upsetting you—that's how you feel about it. You want to take your chances? Go ahead and take them. Do you know what I think? *I think you are a fool*. That's what I think. I think if you weren't a fool, you wouldn't take a chance like that.

Well, in Matthew 22, a certain king made a marriage supper, and he called the guests when it was time to come. One went to his "farm," and one went to the city to his "merchandise." The Bible says that they with "**one consent**" began to make excuses. He sent out the servants to bid others to come to the marriage, and they wouldn't listen. Finally, he said, "**Go ye therefore into the highways**. Get the maimed, halt, lame, and blind and bring them in. I want to have some people at my son's wedding." And they went out there and brought them in.

Now, back in those days when they brought a fellow to the wedding of rich folks, they gave him a wedding robe to get him through the door. Fine linen, white linen, "**the righteousness of the saints**" (Rev. 19). A fellow goes out there, and he has these eight or nine robes over his hand. He comes up to a prospect and says, "Hey, do you want to go to a wedding?"

"Who is getting married?"

"The king's son."

"Oh, yeah, yeah, that'll be quite a shindig. I'd like to go to that."

The fellow says, "OK, put this on."

"*That?*"

"Yeah, that."

"Well, what do you want for it?"

"Nothing. It's free. Put it on."

"Well, I believe in paying my way. I believe, you know, a man is justified by works as well as faith. In Hebrews 6 it says...and in Hebrews 10 it says...." Blah, blah, blah.

The king's servant says, "Look here, bud, if you want to go in, put the thing on."

The guy says, "I'd take it, but I never take anything off anybody for free. My daddy taught me to work my way and pay my way, and I'm going to pay for it."

And the servant said, "You can't have it. It's not for sale." He goes on down the street. The fellow didn't get in.

Then he comes to a young lady, and he says, "Young lady, would you like to go to a marriage?"

She says, "Oh, who is getting married?"

He says, "The king's son."

She says, "Well, who is going to be there?"

You know, if you had a blowout like that in Pensacola, people would be standing at the doorway trying to get in. Suppose I said to you, “Now, next week down at the San Carlos Hotel we’re going to have Sammy Davis and the Kiss rock group and the Beatles and the Monkeys and the Buzzards and the Scorpions; and we’re going to have Charlie’s Angels and President Carter and Dean Martin; and we’re going to have Kissinger, the Queen of England, Fidel Castro, Begin, the Dukes of Hazzard, Frank Sinatra, Miss Universe, and King Kong” and all that crew—name off a whole bunch, you know, and then say, “It’s going to be free, and we’re going to have black-eyed peas, purple hull peas, crowder peas, snap beans, green beans, french fried potatoes, Moo Goo Gai Pan, sweet and sour pork, German chocolate cake, lemon meringue pie, wiener schnitzels, mashed potatoes, boiled potatoes, chicken, chicken gumbo, chicken stew, fried chicken, roast chicken, barbecue chicken, broiled chicken, and chicken chicken, and steak, potatoes, hamburgers, nachos, tacos, burritos, and jalapenos; and we’re going to have all this stuff, and it’s all going to be free, and **‘whosoever will, let him’** come,” they would be standing five deep a mile long trying to get in that door.

Do you know what God does? God comes down from glory and says, “We’re going to have a marriage up in the sky, and my Son is going to get married. We’re going to have the spirits of all the **‘just men made perfect’** up there—Moses is going to be there, and Elijah and David and Jehoshaphat; up there is going to be Noah and Enoch, up there is going to be Paton (John Paton—well, George, he might make it!), Livingstone, Goforth, C. T. Studd, and the spirits of the **‘just men made perfect.’** The Trinity will be there, and the cherubim and seraphim and the archangel and the angels. You can sit down and eat forever and never have to worry again, and it’s free.”

And the fellow says, “Well, I just don’t believe I can live it.” Isn’t that something? Now, isn’t that *something*?

You know, George Gallup had a poll one time (he polls some pretty interesting things sometimes), and he asked Americans, “Who would you like to have most to come to your house for dinner?” They went around and polled about 500,000 people, and here is the list:

1. Abraham Lincoln. I can’t imagine that! He used to run a bar in Illinois. They called him “Honest Abe.” He wasn’t honest! He wasn’t from Illinois. He was from *Kentucky*. Good old Abraham Lincoln. “Of the people, by the people, for the people.” How does God get in *there*, Abe? He didn’t say.

2. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Can you imagine that? If you didn’t know the American people were crazy, you would know it from that Gallup poll. Franklin Delano Roosevelt—think of that! That old cigarette-sucking, whiskey-drinking Episcopalian. Isn’t that something? FDR. “I hate wahr, Eleanor hates wahr, we all hate wahr, friends.” One of the greatest Communists that ever lived. I guess outside of Martin Luther King Jr., that’s the biggest Communist America ever produced: FDR.

There was a big old Indian opera singer named Chief White Feather; when he would sing he would put on his headdress and the whole works. He was a saved fellow. He was giving a concert for the King and Queen of England back there before World War II, and when the concert was over and they were shaking his hand and congratulating him, he said

to the King of England, “Are you saved?” Just like that, man.

And the King said, “Yes, I am.”

And he asked the Queen, “Are you saved?”

She said, “I’ve been washed in the blood.”

And then he asked Roosevelt, “Are you saved?”

And he said, “I’m an Episcopalian.”

3. Eisenhower.

4. George Washington.

5. Harry S. Truman, good old “cussin’ Harry.” Harry said that when he died he’d like to have put on his tombstone, “Here lies Harry S. Truman. He done his d–est.”

Do you want that fellow in your house before Jesus Christ? You say, “Well, Jesus Christ isn’t on the list.” Sure, He’s on the list. He’s number eleven. Before the American people want Jesus Christ in their homes, they want Eisenhower, George Washington, Mr. Truman, Mrs. Roosevelt, General MacArthur, Mrs. Eisenhower, and Churchill.

Winnie Churchill—old “Winnie the Pooh”—that old cigar-smoking, cocktail-sippin’ Episcopalian. Old “Winnie the Pooh,” who in 1918 when the Balfour Declaration was going through said, “We shouldn’t give back the land of Palestine to the Jews. We should make it a British mandate.” That little piece of stupid advice caused his own country to get bombed out. He walked around there, “We’ll fight in the highways. We’ll fight in the hedges. Blood, sweat and tears! Never has so much by so many been so few that were too much!” You didn’t catch *him* fighting in the hedges. Old Winnie the Pooh!

Do you know what Billy Graham said to Winnie the Pooh? He said, “Churchill, your Lordship [or your Grace or whatever you call them over there], I’ve just read your volumes of history on England that you’ve written, and I just want to tell you how much I appreciate it, because God has done something great in the lives of the English-speaking people.”

And Churchill said, “Do you mean to tell me, Suh, that God has an interest in history?” Why that poor old atheist wrote *a history of England* and didn’t know that *God has a purpose in history*. Gee, what a great man for some of you people to follow and have in your house for dinner!

11. Finally making the list was Jesus Christ. Let me tell you, if I had somebody in my house for dinner, that would be the first person I would want in and that would be the first person with whom I’d want to have dinner in any house. Someday I’m going to His house for dinner.

Somebody said to Bud Robinson, the old time Methodist preacher, “Boy, if you keep on preaching like you’re preaching, you’re going to starve to death.” He said, “Well, if I starve to death, I’ll tell you one thing. I’ll take my last dime, and I’ll buy me a bottle of vinegar and a pound of baking soda and eat that soda and pour that vinegar down and swell up like a poisoned pup, and when folks see my dead body they’ll think I died of gluttony. And then I’m going to sit down at the marriage supper of the Lamb and stuff

myself silly.”

The Bible says that God will send forth His angels, and they’ll “**sever the wicked from among the just.**” They’ll take that unsaved sinner who comes in to that wedding supper without that garment and

“Bind him hand and foot...and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 22:13).

It says, “**outer darkness.**” I don’t guess you can make that the *grave*, can you? Old Russell and Rutherford would have a time with *that one*, wouldn’t they? He said, “Put them in a **‘furnace of fire.’**” That’s quite a problem, too, you know. You don’t find many furnaces of fire out there in the *graveyard*. He said, “Put them in a **‘furnace of fire,’**” and “**‘bind him hand and foot’** and cast him out.”

So this fellow comes in there and the Lord says, “Why don’t you have a wedding garment?”

“I wasn’t offered one.” He is a liar. Sure, he was offered one. The offer is “**whosoever will.**” The offer is to anybody that *wants* it.

The servant goes down the street with that wedding garment and sees a young lady, “Would you like to go to a wedding?”

“Oh, who’s going to be there?”

“All these people.”

“Oh, yes, I’d like to go.”

“Well, put this on.”

“That old thing?”

“Yes.”

“It isn’t very becoming, is it?”

“No, but it’s what you have to have to get in the wedding.”

“I don’t think it will fit me very well. It’s not my size.”

“If you want to get in, wear this.”

“Well, it’s very cheap material.”

And the king’s servant said, “Listen, this robe cost the King’s Son His life. If you want to get into the marriage, put it on, and if you don’t, stay out.” So she stayed out.

He went on down the road and pretty soon he found old blind Bartimaeus or old “Blackjack” or “Johnny the Pig” or somebody, there in an alley. The bum had one arm or one leg, and maybe he was blind in one eye or maybe crippled and blind. The servant approached him and said, “Hey, boy, you want to go to a wedding?”

And that old bum laughed and said, “Ha, ha, ha, *me* go to a wedding? Ha, ha, ha, that’s a riot, man.”

The servant said, “The King said to go out and bring them in.”

“The King? I don’t know no king. Kings don’t have no truck with me. Man, you’re trying to pull my leg.”

But the king’s servant said, “Listen, the King said to go into the **‘highways and hedges’** and to get the maimed and the lame and the halt and the blind; if those thirty-second degree Masons won’t come and those cultured day-school kiddies won’t come and those intellectual folks won’t come, then get me some blind or crippled folks out of the alley! Do you want to go?”

That old bum hesitated and then said, “What does it cost?”

He said, “It doesn’t cost anything. It’s free.”

He said, “I don’t know whether I like that. You’re giving me the shaft, man.”

The servant said, “Square count, neighbor, just take it. Put it on.”

The old man with one eye looks up there a while and then yells, “OK, I’ll take it.” Got him a robe! Got in! *He got in!* Do you know what the Bible says? The Bible says there in one place, “the violent take the kingdom by force.” There’s going to be all kinds of bad folks in Heaven that have no business being there at all. And there will be a lot of good folks left out that should have been there.

The king says, “**Bind him hand and foot...and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**” He said, “Throw him out.”

“But Lord, I’m an elder down there in the Methodist church.”

“Throw him out.”

“But, but Lord, I was head of the Cerebral Palsy Drive and the United Fund.”

“Out!”

“But, Lord, I gave to charity, and I gave to the poor, and I’ve been baptized.”

“Out!”

“But I’ve been confirmed.”

“Out!”

“But, I’ve....”

“Out. *Get him out.*” When an angel gets hold of you, do you know where you’re going? You’re going to get the bum’s rush, man! You’re going! One angel in that Bible killed 185,000 men in one night. Do you think you’re going to give him a problem? One will grab you in one hand and one the other and over you go, out you go. “But, but, but....” No “*but*” to it. Out! Out! Out! Weeping, wailing, “**gnashing of teeth.**” Outer darkness. Lake of Fire. *Lost!*

Now, let’s get it down. You want to go to Heaven? Trust Jesus Christ! You want to go to Hell? Trust something else. You want to stay in fellowship with the Lord and live a happy Christian life? Stay judged up and confessed up.

You want to have the Lord reward you and say, “**Well done thou good and faithful servant**” when you die and go home to glory to be with Him? Get in the vineyard and go

to work for Him.

You want to come up there and justify yourself with your works and your Scripture and your church membership and all the smart stuff you picked up to prove what a good fellow you are? OK, you come out at the Last Judgment and will be cast into the Lake of Fire. Don't do it!

Get saved! Get saved NOW! Then judge yourself and stay confessed up and go to work for the Lord.

Would You Like to Know How to be Saved?

Those of you who have read this book are faced with a choice: to respect and believe what the Bible says, or to reject the word of God as unimportant and ignore it. Ultimately, your fate is entirely up to you: whether you wish to go to heaven, or whether you wish to remain lost in your sins and hell bound.

The final question is this: Where will you spend eternity?

- (1) Living with God in a perfect universe forever (Heaven).
- (2) Burning with Satan in fire and brimstone forever (Hell).

These are the only two options presented in the Bible, and the Bible has never been wrong about anything. If you wish to live with God, then you have to accept His terms.

Since you, as a human being, cannot make yourself holy (“**Not by works of righteousness which we have done...**” Titus 3:5), the Lord is ready to give you His righteousness (His goodness) instead. His righteousness is contained in Jesus Christ, who went to the cross “**to be sin for us...that we might be made the righteousness of God in him**” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus Christ came to save you from hell when He suffered for your sin on the cross. If you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then you receive perfect righteousness and holiness, so that you can please God and be acceptable in His sight. Any other attempt to gain God’s acceptance will not work. God “**now commandeth all men everywhere to repent**” (Acts 17:30). That means you have to give up your old way of thinking and living and turn to God. The Bible says, “**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**” (Romans 10:13). That is the invitation. Neither your church, your baptism, nor your good works can save you; you must trust Jesus Christ alone, by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9). It’s very simple. Wherever you are, bow your head and pray a simple prayer something like this:

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and unless you save me, I am lost forever. I now come to you, the best way I know how, and ask you to save me. I receive you as my Saviour and trust you to forgive and justify me and present me without fault before God’s throne in the day of judgment.”

If you have done this, then you have made the greatest decision of your life. Don’t be ashamed of this decision. “**Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed**” (Romans 10:11). You should find a Bible-believing church and start attending that you may grow (2 Peter 3:18). Also begin to read your Bible (Authorized King James Version) daily and talk to God in prayer. God has given you a brand new life (2 Corinthians 5:17); live it for Him.

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