

Psalm 2: 10-12, “Now Therefore Be Wise”, A sermon delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall for those who gathered at Birkwood Village Assisted Care Facility, on October 8th, 2023.

This is a most wonderful and amazing Psalm, and it is quoted in the New Testament in Acts chapter 4, verses 26 & 26 in reference to the rulers of Israel trying to get Peter and John from speaking about Christ any more. At the time of Christ’s death and resurrection the scribes, the Pharisees, and the rulers of Israel tried as hard as they could to suppress the truth about the Lord Jesus being the Son of God, and the only Savior of Mankind. This they did not succeed in doing because it was the Father’s plan to set His King on His holy hill of Zion, the Church, in all generations. This is what He has indeed done, and so we should bow the knee to Him.

I want us to focus on the words of verses 10-12 for a few moments. The exhortation in verse 10 is given to the kings of the earth to be wise. This refers, no doubt, to the kings and rulers of that generation in the early church who were responsible for putting Christ to death. But it also refers to all kings in every generation until the end of the world; that they should be wise. Indeed, God the Father would have all men everywhere to repent and turn to Christ lest He be angry, it says here, they should perish in the way.

So, let me give you 3 points on how each of us can be wise in terms of the way that we live our life unto God. 1st of all – If you are wise, you will receive the instruction of the gospel. 2nd – If you are wise, you will serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. And 3rd – You should kiss the Son lest He be angry.

1st of all – If you are wise, you will receive the instruction of the gospel. (verse 10)

“Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth.” I want you to know that there is a wisdom which comes from God which will lead you to salvation, and there is a wisdom which is from the world, which will never come to Christ for salvation. These scribes and Pharisees, and rulers of Israel thought they were wise, but actually they were doing a great dishonor and disservice to God and to our Lord Jesus Christ, by their refusing to consider why He was there among them, and why He could not accept their authority over Him. The reason was because they did not want to believe that He was the only-begotten Son of God, the Lord’s chosen One, the Lord’s righteous One, the Lord’s King of glory.

They did not want to believe that Jesus was anything more than a man. And if this was the case, they believed that they had no business believing in Him as their Messiah or the Son of God, their Savior and their Lord. They did not want to receive the instruction of the gospel concerning Christ, either from His own lips, or from the lips of the apostles. And therefore they were not wise. It is always a good thing when we will receive instruction concerning Christ; in regard to both His Person and His work. It was a vain thing as it says in verse 1 of this Psalm, for the nations to rage and for the people to plot the vain thing of wanting to resist the truth about Christ when there were so many prophecies concerning Him that were being fulfilled before their eyes.

Christ is God’s Anointed One. He was appointed to be the Savior and Lord of all of Mankind from before the foundation of the world. You see this in verse 7 of this Psalm. “I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. This does not refer to the Last Judgment alone, but it has reference to all the kingdoms of this world all through this Church Age, that set themselves up against the Lord and His Anointed. This is why kings are mentioned. They in particular need to be wise.

But we need to know that all of us individually need to be wise as well. For there is indeed coming a Day in which God will judge the world. And we should be instructed concerning it. It is Christ who will someday judge the world in righteousness. God will judge the world through the

Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof by raising Him from the dead as it says in Acts chapter 17, verse 31. In verses 29 and 30, there, it says that “since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone something shaped by art and man’s devising.” “Truly these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.” And what do we have to repent of? Well, certainly we need to repent of all of our sins. We need to repent of the sins that we have committed against God in breaking His 10 commandments. These commandments have been given not only to Israel, but also to all mankind.

These are summed up by the 2 greatest commandments. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all of your soul, and all of your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself. If your supreme love is not of God, then there must be something that is more important to you than God; something you have put in the place of God. And that is what you must repent of. You need to be instructed to be wise in this regard, and have no other gods before the true and living God. You should repent and turn away from such a sin. Be instructed and be wise.

And study the life of the Lord Jesus. He fulfilled that greatest command of loving God with all of His heart. But He also perfectly loved his neighbor as Himself. He thought deeply and lovingly about all the needs of all of the people around Him. And He ministered to them. He thought so much about the fallen sinful condition of mankind, that it says that He humbled Himself to the point of death, even the death of the cross so that you and I might be saved. The scribes and the Pharisees and the rulers of Israel wanted to break the cords or bands of the Father and the Son from them. Christ came to reveal to them the Father, but they would have none of His instruction concerning Him or themselves.

There is a wisdom which leads to salvation. Paul says to Timothy in 2nd Timothy 3: 14 – “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” Remember that it is the Bible, the Scriptures, which teach us all we need to know to come to know the Lord and walk with the Lord, all the way to heaven. But believing in the gospel concerning Christ, you will be made wise unto salvation. Each of us must have Christ to have eternal life.

2nd – If you are wise, you will serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.

That is what verse 11 says – “Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.” To serve the Lord is to worship Him. To serve Him with godly fear is not so much to be physically afraid of Him, as much as it is to have your greatest regard for Him. It is true that it is right for us to fear God’s judgments. Psalm 119: 120 says – “My flesh trembles for fear of You.” “And I am afraid of Your judgments. But a godly fear is more than this. It is to receive all of God words in the Bible. You receive His words, and then you go about to do them and to keep His commandments, because you have come to love Him through Your Lord Jesus Christ.

You can only truly fear God, by having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You will recall that Jesus Himself says in John 14: 6 that no one can come to the Father except through Him. Jesus is the only Mediator between God and men. Jesus is the only One who can bring you to God. He is the only One through whom you will find favor with God. If we are afraid of God it must be because we understand at least something of His wrath against all sin and all sinners who will not repent. To serve the Lord means that you want to reverence God and do what will please Him. This can only be done through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why can’t you simply please God on your own, apart from Christ and His righteousness, and Christ and His redemptive work? It is because of all of your self efforts at doing God’s will apart from the grace of Christ, will ultimately fall short of His glory, and His expectation of perfection in you. We are imperfect because of our sinful flesh. We want to walk through this life doing our

own will, conceiving things in our own way. And this is different from God's way. You must believe in Jesus because He is the only perfect Man. He became a Man to work out on behalf of sinners, a New and Living Way for us to serve God. We serve God in spirit and truth by trusting in His righteousness alone to merit favor with God.

That perfect righteousness is imputed to us when we first believe in Jesus. It is charged to our legal account, and God looks at us with favor because we are clothed in Christ's righteousness. When we first confess our sins, we are forgiven of them all. When we sin, sometimes as a Christian, we are forgiven by our confessing those sins, and we are cleansed of them in an ongoing basis. This is why we rejoice with trembling. We rejoice in the glory of God who has given us such a great and perfect Savior and Salvation. In Philippians 2, verses 13 and 14 it says – "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

Because God is working in your heart when you become a Christian, you can rejoice. For He will be transforming you from one degree of glory to another, even by His Holy Spirit. He will teach you how to walk in the truth from right motives, and how to love God with all of your heart. Even when you sin, He will still forgive you as long He knows that it is your will to learn to do His will in His way, from the right motives. The right motives are love to God and love to other people around you, because you have the love of Christ in you.

In Philippians 4: 4 it says – "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice." You can always rejoice if you have Jesus with You. And when you have Jesus with you, you are working out your own salvation with fear and trembling. It says in Isaiah 66, verses 1 & 2 it says – "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool." "Where is the house that you will build for Me?" "And where is the place of My rest?" "For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist, says the Lord." "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word." This is a good kind of trembling, when You see the greatness and glory of God, and all that He can do for you, in saving you through Christ and His grace.

3rd – You should kiss the Lord Jesus Christ lest He be angry.

Verse 12 says – "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little." "Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him." Now we all know what a kiss is. It is when we express ourself in affection by using our lips to touch someone else's lips or face or hand or some other part of their body. You will recall that Judas betrayed His Master with a kiss. But His affection was only feigned. It was false. He was delivering Jesus over to the temple guard, to be arrested and tried and put to death. But all righteous kissing is done between those who truly love one another, or those who would show another person their real love or respect for them by kissing them.

This is what the kings of the earth are being instructed to do here. They are drawing near to Him spiritually in prayer to ask Him to save them from their sins. And then like the Bride in Song of Solomon chapter 1, verse 2 they say to Him – "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth – for your love is better than wine. They show the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, their highest respect and confess that they want to know Him and love Him, and have Him to be their personal Savior and Lord. Jesus is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. They want to be saved from their sins.

They do not want to be alienated from God by wicked works. But they do want to show Him that they love Him by giving Him their supreme allegiance and their sincere obedience. Therefore they will draw near to Him by faith, and they will kiss Him in this metaphorical, but truly spiritual, sense. By believing in Him the wrath of God against them is all taken away. They will be given all the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places. They will show Christ their honor, their respect, and their reverence by kissing Him. This is what all of us must do as well. We must kiss the Son by faith. We must give Him our greatest love and the affection of our heart. If you do this, you will indeed be forever blessed.

