

WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP

(Sermon Summary)

Pastor Rajkumar: Metropolitan Church, Chennai, India.

Sunday Morning – 23rd October 2022

Reading: Matthew 25:31-46.

A well-known person in India was asked what his greatest expectation in life was. He answered that the Second Coming of the Jesus Christ was what he was looking for. And he was a Muslim! How much more Christians should be looking forward to the day that the Lord returns.

His coming will be very public and visible. The word 'glory' is mentioned twice in v31. His coming will be very vivid and will be seen by all men. We can see this also in 1 Thessalonians 4:16ff, Acts 1:11ff and Revelation 1:7ff. His First Coming was like a lamb as He came silently and meekly. He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. His Second Coming will be as a King and a Judge. We should make ourselves ready for that day. We need to be showing the likeness of Christ in our lives when He comes. Then He will declare publicly that we are His.

In the separation of the sheep and the goats, the two categories are not the rich and the poor, or royalty and ordinary people. It is not to do with status or wealth but belonging to the Lord. This is there in the division of the wheat and the tares in Matthew 13 and building on rock or on sand in Matthew 7. The verdict of the Judge will finally determine everything for all people.

Christ is honoured by our showing faith in Him. The Christian then takes heart that he has a place in the kingdom of God. He is going to inherit a kingdom and the Lord is busy preparing a place for His people (John 14:1-2). Justification makes us into new creations. Imputed righteousness means that we will live fruitful lives. We will take up our Lord's cross and do His will. We become the Bible to other people as they 'read' in us who God is.

Faith is put into action as we see in the parable of the talents earlier in Matthew 25. We are saved so as to be the city on the hill which cannot be hidden. We are the lamp on the lampstand giving light to people. We are not saved by good works, but we are saved

to do good works (Ephesians 2:10). The good works are listed in Matthew 25. It is very simple. It could simply involve giving a cup of water, or maybe a cup of tea to people or visiting people in prison, or those that are sick. The list is not exhaustive but helps us see what the Lord is looking for in us.

Those who do not know Christ do not do good works. Saving faith helps us to understand the needs that are around us. The church is to be the model and image of Christ. We are to be action-oriented Christians. As in John 9:4 we work while it is day. Like the Lord Jesus, we aim to go round doing good (Acts 10:38).

Let us therefore work hard for the Lord. Let us follow what we are told in 1 Corinthians 15:58 so that we will be steadfast and immovable too. Let us keep busy and may the Lord help us so to do, and be ready for the Day of His Return.