

Morning Sermon November 29, 2015

“Here Comes the Judge” Romans 2:16

“in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.” (Romans 2:16 NKJ)

I remember in my mind a comedian, I believe Flip Wilson, saying or almost singing – “Here comes the Judge, Here comes the Judge, Here comes the Judge” if not said in a mocking manner, these words were definitely said in a lighthearted manner, an unserious manner, and today lack of seriousness about God, His Law, and especially His judgment has run rampant ...

A more recent movie; maybe makes this statement even more powerfully. In this movie, Batman, who is trying to stand for good and right, against the murderous Joker, because of his righteous stand; is asked by Joker “Why So Serious?”

Our world has no good answer for this question! The Bible does - “Why so serious?” BECAUSE -

I. People will be judged by God’s Law –

¹¹ For there is no partiality with God. ¹² For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law ¹³ (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; (Romans 2:11-13 NKJ)

1. Chapter 1 of Romans cataloged the great sins of the Gentiles who were without God in the world
2. Chapter 2 comforts the Jews, who had the Law, with their sins
3. We have the Law when we have the Ten Commandments:

³ "You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. ⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you

shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." (Exodus 20:3-17 NKJ)

One day people will be judged by the laws of the 10 Commandments. They will be judged also by other laws written in Scripture. They will be judged, according to Christ’s righteous interpretation of the law – Matthew 5:17-48.

II. People will be judged by their own standards –

¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) (Romans 2:14-15 NKJ)

1. This does not mean people will be allowed to make up their own rules and be judged by a different standard. No, it means –
2. God, has written His Law on people’s hearts. Some people do it, obey, or feel guilty regarding not obeying it, without really even knowing it.

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Rom 1:18-21 NKJ)

III. *People will be judged by Jesus Christ, according to Paul's Gospel / the Gospel –*

¹⁶ **in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel. (Romans 2:16 NKJ)**

How are people judged by Jesus Christ –

1. *People will be judged by His Standard of righteousness –*

A. *A righteousness that exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees –* ²⁰ **"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:20 NKJ)**

B. *A righteousness that includes the heart and thoughts and not just outward actions –*

Matthew 5:20-30 *Murder / Adultery --- Anger / Lust are all seen by omniscient God. God will judge the secrets of men*

As men we cannot and are not supposed to judge (meaning to condemn) the inward thoughts, motives and lusts of other human beings! But God can!

*He judges not only our lusts, but can see and judge improper motives for charitable deeds or prayer – **Matthew 6:1-6***

³ **If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?**

⁴ **But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. (Psalm 130:3-4 NKJ)**

2. *People will be judged by the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ –*

What is the Gospel of Jesus Christ and HOW? WHY? Would anyone be JUDGED by it?

A. *This Gospel is Paul's Gospel – according to my gospel. (Romans 2:16 NKJ)*

A1. *The Gospel was Paul's Gospel as a Sinner –*

¹⁵ **This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. (1Timothy 1:15 NKJ)**

The sins of the chiefest sinner were washed clean by His blood,

thus figure then your own sins, can be washed beneath this flood!

⁵ **and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)**

A2. *The Gospel was Paul's as an Apostle –*

That the greatest sinner was made by God an apostle is a wonder of grace itself! His Gospel, the same as the other Apostles was and still is, the only Gospel –

¹² **"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12 NKJ)**

⁶ **I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.**

⁸ **But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. ¹¹ But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1:6-12 NKJ)**

B. *Is this Gospel that Paul calls "His Gospel", Your Gospel?*

Do you trust in Christ alone for your salvation?

Are you washed in the Blood?

Or will you be judged for neglecting the great grace of God? If you reject Christ's Gospel you are condemned not only for breaking God's Law, but also for rejecting God's great grace ...

³ **how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? (Hebrews 2:3-4 NKJ)**

No one who rejects the Gospel of forgiveness in Christ will stand in the day of God's wrath - ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

¹⁵ **And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!**

¹⁷ "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:14-15 NKJ)

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