

## Prepare to Meet Your God

The Bible reminds us that “it is appointed for men to die once, and after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Soon our brief life will be over. Yet death is not the end of everything for we must all stand before the judgment seat of God. One of two destinies awaits us -- either everlasting punishment in Hell or everlasting life and joy in Heaven. Many people, immersed in their business and entertainments, just ignore this sober reality until it is too late. Others consider themselves “good enough”; they have nothing to worry about – or so they think. Still others feel that God will not send anyone to Hell because He is a loving God.

All these futile excuses will be useless before the Judge of the world. I ask you in all seriousness: Are you prepared for that day? Are you ready?

God has shown the way of life in the Gospel, the Good News that: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15). Christ came to save *sinners*. May I ask you: Do you consider yourself a sinner? Maybe you feel that you are not any worse than other people. That may be so, but remember that it is not to sinful people you must give account. Rather you have to do with the Holy God who knows all things including the secrets of your heart. Do you think that you will be found righteous and pure in His sight?

Being the Creator, God is the Ruler of all; being His creatures, we ought to be submissive, obedient and thankful. Yet from the very beginning man chose to disregard and disobey his Maker. The head of the human family, Adam, violated God’s command and sinned against Him. Being Adam’s children, we are just as sinful and rebellious. God’s Word pronounces a terrible verdict on humanity: “There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none who understands; there is none, who seeks after God... There is none who does good, no, not one” (Romans 3:10-12).

Would you admit before God that His verdict applies to you as well? Would you confess: It is true; I am not righteous because I have broken God’s holy law whenever I disobeyed my parents, hated, looked at women with lust, stole and cheated, lied and envied. I am a Law-breaker, a rebel against the throne of Heaven. I do not understand because sin has blinded my eyes; I do not know the true and living God. I seek my own interests rather than God and His glory. Even my “good deeds” are filthy rags, for nothing that a rebel does could ever be pleasing to the King of kings. Such is my miserable condition!

Will you humble yourself in the dust before your Maker, or will you proudly lift your head and contradict God? Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, but you will never find salvation unless you come to Him conscious of your worthlessness, debt and guilt. Only then will you behold Christ Jesus, the Saviour.

God’s justice and mercy are wonderfully manifest in His Son at the cross of Calvary. “Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24). On the cross Jesus suffered God’s righteous wrath in order to save His people from the wrath to come. He died that they might live. Today, Christ is not hanging on a cross anymore. He was buried, and yet the grave is empty. Jesus Christ arose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures; He is now seated in glory at the right hand of the Father. His blood is the guarantee of eternal salvation for all His beloved people. He died once for all; now He lives forever to intercede on their behalf, safeguarding their salvation.

Jesus Christ is the only Saviour. He is the Way. There is no other way to Heaven. Will you ignore Him? Will you continue in your sinful life? Will you continue to trust in your religion or your “goodness”? I beg you from my heart: be reconciled to God. Turn from your sin and submit yourself to God. Come to Him with a broken heart pleading for mercy. Call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in Him alone to save you. The Bible says: “Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). All of us are sinners; we all deserve condemnation and Hell. Yet for those who belong to Jesus Christ, who truly believe in Him, “there is now no condemnation.” (Romans 8:1). Our guilt was paid on the cross. We are free. We are right with God. Now we live to please and praise Him who loves us with unfailing and eternal love. We eagerly await the blessed hope of our Lord’s return. Then we will be with our beloved Lord and Saviour forever and our joy will be perfect.

Will you be with God’s people? Or will you be with the accursed?