

Text— John 5:22-30

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

A couple of weeks ago we celebrated Easter, the feast of the resurrection of our Lord. The Lord Jesus remained visibly present on earth for forty days after His bodily resurrection, and then He ascended into heaven, for in Acts 1:9-11 we learn that as His disciples “beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” Accordingly, it’s a fact that Jesus will visibly return to earth.

Fellow Christians, it behooves us to consider the truth that Jesus will visibly come to this earth but ONCE more, for Hebrews 9:28 clearly states, “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Yes, Jesus will come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead, and to then take His believers home to heaven; Jesus will NOT return to set-up-shop on earth for 1,000 years, during which time His church will enjoy earthly-ease, thereby giving unbelieving folks more time to repent while He visibly reigns on earth, subsequently returns to heaven, and then visibly comes back to earth a third time. NO, fellow Christians, Holy Scripture teaches us, “we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.” (Acts 14:22; Hebrews 13:14) Thus, Jesus is visibly returning to earth but ONCE, at which time He will judge ALL people, for Revelation 1:7 declares in no uncertain terms, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

Therefore, our Scripture selection can be of great benefit to us as it in effect urges:

“BE PREPARED TO STAND BEFORE JUDGE JESUS”

With that as our theme may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) Why it is necessary to be prepared to stand before judge Jesus
- 2) How to be properly prepared to stand before judge Jesus

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Verses 22 & 23, ----- (John 5:22-23)

It is vitally necessary to be prepared to stand before Jesus on Judgment Day because our text informs us that God the Father has committed ALL judgment unto His SON. That is God’s Son with a capital “S” who is Jesus Christ, for John 1:17-18 reports, “the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” Thus, it’s a fact that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God; Jesus Christ is indeed God’s Son with a capital “S”.

The name “Jesus” means Savior, and that is who God’s only begotten Son is, for John 3:16 clearly states, “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” However, those who reject Jesus in unbelief forfeit the salvation which He earned for them and all other people, for John 3:17-18 reports, “God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” Accordingly, unbelief brings condemnation upon one’s self; and so, all who will not fully and confidently trust in Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord, will face Him as their

condemnatory judge when He visibly returns in glory to earth on the Last Day.

Thus, it is necessary to be prepared to stand before judge Jesus. Realize that even all the believers will stand before judge Jesus; but thankfully, for all true believers Jesus is NOT a condemnatory judge, for Romans 8:1 declares, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Nevertheless, we read in Romans 14:10 that "we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." So, I repeat, it is necessary to be prepared to stand before judge Jesus, for everyone shall appear before Him, for *the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

The original Greek wording reveals that to "honor" means to revere and highly value as precious. Observe in our text that God's Son, Jesus Christ, is to be honored as God the Father is honored. Thus, identical honor is due to both God the Son and God the Father. Note well that if one fails to honor God the Son, one also fails to honor God the Father who sent His only begotten Son into the world to redeem the world. Thus, all so-called "religions" which worship a supposed "Father God" who has no only begotten Son named Jesus Christ are false religions. Furthermore, all so-called "religions" which worship God the Father while claiming His only begotten Son is a "lesser God" actually dishonor both the Father and the Son, as for example is the case with those who falsely wear the label "Jehovah's Witnesses." Oh beloved, the Son is to be honored as the Father is honored since Jesus Christ IS JEHOVAH, "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS," as Jeremiah 23:6 relates.

Oh, it's true that God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, is true man, sinless man. Nevertheless, Jesus Christ is also true and very God, for Colossians 2:9 relates, "in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." Thus, Jesus Christ is deserving of ALL honor, as is God the Father, and

for that matter God the Holy Ghost also, for the three divine Persons are but the one true God.

My friends, let us never forget that it is necessary to be prepared to stand before judge Jesus because God the Father has committed ALL judgment to His only begotten Son, and consequently 2 Corinthians 5:10 informs us, "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." Realize that our works will supply evidence of faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, or a lack of such faith. Therefore, it is necessary to be prepared to stand before judge Jesus, because stand before Him we will since no one will evade judgment.

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As we continue to ponder our text to its conclusion, let us see how to be properly prepared to stand before judge Jesus.

Verse 24, ----- (John 5:24)

It is comforting to us believers to realize that our Lord Jesus Christ doubly assures us that those who hear His Word, and believe on God the Father who sent Him to redeem us, have everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but have indeed passed from death unto life.

Take it to heart that Jesus' words are the words of eternal life, for Romans 10:17 states, "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Jesus' words are the means God the Holy Ghost uses to gift folks with faith in Jesus – which is also faith in God the Father who sent Him – for we must never forget that in John 10:30 Jesus, who cannot lie, says, "I and my Father are one." Thus, we who hear Jesus' words with our ears and with our heart believe on God the Father and on His only begotten Son; and so, we have everlasting life. Yes, all sincere Christians have everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but are passed from death unto life. Hence, we Christians are

properly prepared to stand before judge Jesus because we have God-given faith in both God the Father and God the Son, and for that matter God the Holy Ghost as well since the three divine Persons are but the one true God. So, for us Christians, Judgment Day is not a cause for fear since we know we will be declared not-guilty of sin for Jesus' sake, by Jesus, for we are already passed from death unto life.

Verse 25, ----- (John 5:25)

Jesus doubly assures us that His voice, His Word, grants life to the dead. My friends, Jesus here speaks of a spiritual resurrection which every sinful human being requires if he or she would have spiritual life. We Christians have in fact been spiritually resurrected or we would not actually be Christians, for to all Christians Ephesians 2:1-7 declares, "you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

Realize that Jesus, God's only begotten Son, gives spiritual life where spiritual death exists; and, Jesus gives such life by means of His Word, His Gospel in particular, for we read in Romans 1:16-17, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Hence, to be properly prepared to

stand before judge Jesus, God-given faith in Christ is required, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Verses 26 & 27, ----- (John 5:26-27)

God the Father has life in Himself; likewise, God the Father gave to His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to have life in Himself; thus, Jesus Christ is our life-giver. Furthermore, God the Father has given to His only begotten Son *authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*

Therefore, note well that when Jesus speaks of being GIVEN *to have life in himself*, and being GIVEN *authority to execute judgment also*, such things are GIVEN to Him according to His HUMAN NATURE as THE SON OF MAN, for according to Jesus' DIVINE NATURE He always possessed life in Himself and authority to execute judgment. Thus, Jesus Christ the God/man, the one true Savior, has complete authority to grant life and to judge the world! Hence, to be properly prepared to stand before judge Jesus one must know that He is true man and true God but one Christ, the life-giving Lord who will rightly judge ALL people on the Last Day based upon their faith in Him or their lack of such faith.

Verses 28 & 29, ----- (John 5:28-29)

There is but one great Judgment Day coming when ALL shall stand before judge Jesus who has the authority to execute judgment. Oh, don't marvel at the fact that the lowly man Christ Jesus has been given authority to execute judgment, for the man Christ Jesus is also true God whose mighty voice will call ALL the dead forth from their graves.

Recall that it was Jesus who during His public ministry called a man named Lazarus forth from his grave, for we read in John 11:39-44 that upon arrival at the man's grave, "Jesus said, Take ye

away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go." Thus, Jesus used His voice, Jesus spoke His Word, and Lazarus bodily rose from the dead.

Take it to heart the same Jesus Christ will visibly return to earth in glory at the end of days to judge the world, and with His powerful voice and word He will call ALL people forth from their graves, no matter how many years they will have slept in the ground or under the sea, no matter how rotted away their bodies are or if their bodies were blown apart or reduced to ashes by burning— ALL will come forth physically resurrected from their graves and stand before judge Jesus who will render His just verdict upon them.

They that have done good, believing on Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, will be resurrected to eternal life in heavenly bliss, for Revelation 21:4 informs us, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." On the other hand, they that have done evil in rejecting the Redeemer Jesus Christ in unbelief, will be resurrected to damnation as they will be sentenced to endless death in hell, for Mark 16:16 plainly states, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Therefore, be properly prepared to stand before

judge Jesus by knowing He will call ALL people forth from their graves, and there will then be no more time to repent and believe on Him, for "behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation," as 2 Corinthians 6:2 relates. Additionally, note that there is no purgatory or any other half-way-house: there are but two places in which folks will end up— heaven or hell. Yes, those with faith in Jesus Christ, a faith which works by love, will be raised to eternal life in heaven; while those without a living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will be raised to damnation, never-ending death in hell, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched," as Mark 9:44 describes it. So, be properly prepared to stand before judge Jesus by having faith in Him as your personal Savior and Lord, for Acts 4:12 remarks, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Verse 30, ----- (John 5:30)

In the closing verse of our text Jesus reminds us that He works in full cooperation and harmony with His heavenly Father in doing His will. Accordingly, Jesus' judgment is perfectly just because it is divine judgment.

Therefore, we can be properly prepared to stand before judge Jesus by confidently trusting in Him, remembering who He is, what He has done, what He still does, and what He will yet do for us. Yes, my friends, let us believe on Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, and let us continue to believe on Him, for by so doing we also believe on God the Father who sent Him.

Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins; let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord; and, let us go forward in that true faith, for then we can be sure we are heeding our text's urgent message to be prepared to stand before judge Jesus. Amen.

m.e.l.