Disciples Church

Lesson 76: Thursday October 20, 2016

**TEACHING NOTES**

**Q117. What is the final judgment?**

God has appointed a day in which He will righteously judge the world by Jesus Christ, in whom is all power and judgment. On that day, the fallen angels and all people who were conceived to life will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account of all their thoughts, words, and deeds, whether good or evil.

God's purpose for this day is for the manifestation of the glory both of His merciful grace in the eternal salvation of the elect and of His justice in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient.

The outline tonight is simple, I plan on walking us through our answer to the question “What is the final judgment”. My goal is that we will understand well why we have the answer we do for tonight’s question.

So like normal will you please read the answer out loud after I read the question to you?

Let’s pray:

1. **God has appointed a day in which He will righteously judge the world by Jesus Christ, in whom is all power and judgment.**

Acts 17: Paul in Athens

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.”

21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. 22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. **30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”**

32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” 33 So Paul went out from their midst. 34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

This is a really amazing passage and when we have a better understanding of the context it only increases the uniqueness of what’s going on.

Let me start with a brief description of what the Areopagus was and how it was used.

The Areopagus was a hill in Athens, south of the Agora, to the north-west of the Acropolis. The term “Areopagus,” however, often refers to the “Council of the Areopagus”, a governmental institution that met on that hill. This institution was very ancient, existing long before democratic government. Its history, which recedes back into mythological pre-history, follows closely the political history of Athens, and shows the ongoing tension between democratic and anti-democratic forces.

The Areopagus, or “Hill of Ares”, in Athens was the site of a council that served as an important legal institution under the Athenian democracy. This body, called the “Council of the Areopagus,” or simply the “Areopagus,” existed long before the democracy, and its powers and composition changed many times over the centuries.

Originally, it was the central governing body of Athens, but under the democracy, it was primarily the court with jurisdiction over cases of homicide and certain other serious crimes. After an Athenian had served as one of the nine archons, his conduct in office was investigated, and if he passed that investigation he became a member of the Areopagus. Tenure was for life. The Areopagites those who served on this council were often said to have been so good that those who were accused and found guilty would not argue their guilt.

This was the prestigious court that tried the highest cases. At the time of Paul’s visit it may have become a less used tribunal than in its earlier history but notice in the last verse, verse 34 it reads: But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite. This clarity proves that there was at the very least still a counsel and people who were on it.

So picture this with me. The people of Athens take Paul to their court, one that was historical and prestigious, one that the people there would know well and respect. They wanted to try or hear about this new religion. So it seems at first like Paul and his foreign God are on trial. The people of Athens had many gods and in order to not offend anyone they even put out an alter for the “unknown” god. Everyone can believe their own god or gods as long they don’t “offend” anyone else’s beliefs. The problem with this belief Paul had, was that it was speaking about a resurrection. To the people who heard this, who primarily thought that the physical body is bad and the spiritual life was good, it was offensive. Their main argument against Paul’s God is found earlier in the passage that we read. It reads “And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.” They called him a babbler and said he preaches foreign divinities because he spoke of Jesus and the resurrection. Just look at the language used “What does this babbler wish to say”. So they took him to the Areopagus to try him and his foreign divinity. Paul wastes no time telling them that their very own unknown god is the one true God. He then goes on to explain the difference between the true God and their fake gods. Paul stands in the midst of this place of judgment and says your gods are fake but I know the true God. This one true God is not like your fake gods for He does not need men to serve Him. In fact He is the very reason we live. So Paul’s sharing his case and it the tension is building but Paul brings the hammer down and says **you silly men, you think you’re here to try me and my God but it’s you who are on trial and found unprepared for the judgment to come!** He says you’re ignorant! The true God is not like these other gods that you worship but the time of ignorance is over! Just look at our main verses for this section again, verses 30&31 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Paul turns the tables here and says you thought you brought me here to judge my God but I tell you a day of judgment is coming and your ignorance will not save you. You think this God is foreign because of His resurrection and I am telling you His resurrection is the sure sign that God will use this Jesus to judge you! Oh how scripture comes alive to us when we do work with context! The part that really gripped me when I read through this is that one of the Areopagites believed and followed Paul. One of the most honored judges, who would hold their position for life, believed and left all of that to follow Paul. God will have his people even when it seems they are the most unlikely.

Paul essentially entered a city where everyone had the coexist bumper sticker on the back of their horse drawn carriages. Paul left the people in Athens who heard him with no more excuse in this category of ignorance. He told them about the one true God. He warned them about the true judgment to come.

They thought were judging Paul, but Paul used their own court to warn them of the true and lasting judgment that God will bring through Jesus.

Please see here with me that ignorance will not excuse anyone. God has appointed a day for judgment. On that day Jesus will judge mankind just as sure as He has been resurrected. If we have not repented and trusted in Him alone, this day will be very dark. More importantly see that the first part of our answer is cleared up in these verses alone.

The judge in our answer is Jesus Christ. Since this passage does not expressly state that the one who’s going to judge is Jesus, let’s look at another passage.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

The judgment seat is called the judgment seat of Christ, and is clearly naming Jesus as the judge whom we all must appear before. This verse brings us even more clarity to what the judgment is. Each of us will receive what is due for what we have done in the body, whether good or evil. This type of language cannot be misinterpreted. There is a day coming in which all will be judged and the judge is Jesus Himself.

The last part of our answer ends with this phrase “in whom is all power and judgment.”

John 5:27 “And he [the Father] has given him [Jesus] authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.”

Jesus has been given the authority and will execute judgment. I think this provides enough clarity for the first part of our question, so let’s move to the second part.

1. **On that day, the fallen angels and all people who were conceived to life will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account of all their thoughts, words, and deeds, whether good or evil.**

Romans 14:10-12 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Notice this passage begins with, “Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;”

Paul is warning about judging or condemning your brothers based on immaturity or Christian liberty. This is something we should all be careful of. There are things with which we are to judge each other as Christians but these should not be it.

Let me clarify;

God has commanded us to hold each other accountable and to judge each other as brothers (see 1 Corinthians 5).

This judging is to be done in regard to clear and unrepentant sin and rebellion. We do not and should not judge each other over our liberties, things that God has given us to enjoy. On the flip side of that coin we should not force a brother to do something that he has the liberty to abstain from if he has a weaker or immature conscious. Here’s is some important clarity though. This has to do with liberties things we can or cannot do, it’s up to us. This doesn’t work the same way when it comes to commands. If we have a biblical command to do something in a specific way, even if the way we are commanded to do it stirs a conviction in us, we must see that this is not a **freedom** or **weakness of conscious** issue, rather it is a command to do something in a specific way. The clarity is the word liberty. If it’s a liberty we can do it or chose to not do it. If it’s a command then we need to change our conscious opinion about it and be obedient to our Lord. I hope this help you have some clarity.

So that being said lets be cautious to not judge in a condemning way which is not our place, ***unless*** we have been given specific instruction in the scriptures to do so.

Now it is clear by the end of this verse and others that we will all answer to God. “for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, **every knee** shall bow to me, and **every tongue** shall confess to God.” So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” You see as believers we will escape the eternal judgment for our sin because we will be found in Christ, however we will be judged for what we have done in our lives.

Now this statement definitely needs some clarity. Heaven will be so much more amazing than anything we can imagine, however there is promise of greater rewards or greater responsibilities given to those who are more faithful in the way in which we lived our lives after Christ saved us. There will also be a greater judgment upon those who have been allowed to be in leadership of the church. Your leaders will have to give a greater account for the way they led you. Let’s read just a few of these passages.

Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

We see here that those who lead you will be held to a greater judgment. They will have to give an account for how they led you. Husbands, as the head of your home, you will have to answer for how you led your family, Elders, as the head of the church, you will have to answer for how you lead your flock.

Now notice in this verse we get some clarity here, the leaders in Hebrews 17:13 are obviously believers which is the very reason why they are leaders of the church. This means there is clear proof that believers will still give an account for how they led. So even though we will not be condemned as believers, we will still give an account for what we did with our life after Christ saved us.

Matthew 25:14-30 (ESV) The Parable of the Talents

Three servants were given talents, each one differing in the amounts given. Two of the servants invested and doubled what was entrusted to them. One servant hid what was entrusted and did not love or serve the master well. What happened to the servants? The good servants were blessed for how they handled the money. Those who were cursed were condemned for how they handled the money. So we see again a clear account in scripture that believers or good servants are still judged by what they did with what God gave them! In fact in this parable both the believer and the unbeliever are clearly held accountable for their lives and how they used them.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Clearly according to this verse in Ecclesiastes there will be an account given by believers for apart from faith you cannot do anything good. Therefore, if every deed is brought to judgment, **even good deeds,** then believers will give an account, for only believers are capable of good deeds.

Let’s look at a few more verses:

Matthew 12:36 "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak"

Church listen, any word you speak that’s not righteous will be another careless word you will be judged for. Do your words bring life to those around you? Are they careless, do they hurt those around you? We must not miss the seriousness of this passage! Every careless word spoken will be held up to us on the Day of Judgment. Think about that for a moment, every careless text message, every careless comment or post on social media, every careless shout in bad traffic, we must be slow to speak and slow to anger. I am so thankful for God’s grace, but I will give an account for this too.

We have seen this truth in the previous verses. In fact the first verse we began with was an example of Paul’s effort to say to believers that you will be held accountable by Jesus so don’t waste your time condemning each other (fellow believers) in issues of liberty, Jesus will hold all men to account of what they have or have not done.

So, if you have ears to hear tonight, don't hide that sin. The lie from sin that no one will know and if they do they couldn't possibly love you is just that, it's a lie. There is no secret that won't be made known. Don't give in to the deceitfulness of sin and allow it to have a stronghold on your life. It will be made known one day, it's far better to share that and let the genuine believer’s love you well in your repentance. I mean, just think about how it would feel to be fully known and still loved. The truth shall set you free indeed.

It is clear through the passages we’ve read in this section that all men will be held accountable for every careless word, every thought, every deed, and every failure to obey God. We will also be judged for every good deed we do, and the held accountable for the responsibilities we have been given.

I hope by now you see the clarity that all mankind will be judged in a sense, the believer and the unbeliever.

Our answer also says that fallen angels would be judged. We see this clarity in Jude 6.

Jude 6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day

So we have clearly seen through these many verses that all mankind and angels who have fallen will be judged in this Day of Judgment. Now that we have the “who” established, let’s look at the “what” part of our answer.

Let’s move to our last parts of the answer for tonight.

**3. God's purpose for this day is for the manifestation of the glory both of His merciful grace in the eternal salvation of the elect and of His justice in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient.**

There are two main passages that unpack our final point. The first one will be in Matthew 25, and the second will be in Romans 9. So turn in your bibles to Romans 9 and place a book mark there then turn to Matthew 25.

I am going to answer the question from multiple angles so hang in there with me through this section. Our first passage is in Matthew chapter 25.

Matthew 25:31-34; 41, 46 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place **the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’**...

**41**“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

See clearly that there is a day coming when Jesus will return and the purpose of His return will be to judge the world, separating the sheep from the goats. This separation is very similar to the language that we have heard in our Sunday morning series through John. In John 10 Jesus speaks in great lengths of the sheep and of those who are not sheep.

Jesus calls Himself the good Shepherd. Now notice that Jesus here is not just the Good Shepherd rather He is also the exalted King! “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place **the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’”**

You see this Jesus that returns for the final judgment is the one who like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goat. This Jesus, this Shepherd is also the one who is the King that says to those He separated, to the ones on the right **‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’. Church Jesus our Shepherd King will return for us one day!**

However verse 41 and verse 46 make it clear that the goats will not have the same experience. **41**“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Now we can use this passage to establish that there are two groups of people like our answer says and that one of these people the “sheep” or the “righteous” will be given eternal life that has been prepared beforehand from the foundations of the world. These will be the subjects of the one true King. This eternal life will be lived in the kingdom that has been prepared for them before creation!

The goats or the unbelievers will go away into eternal punishment. Another name we use for this group of people is the name reprobate. A reprobate is one who is condemned strongly as unworthy, or evil. This was also prepared before the foundations of the world. None of this was a response to man. God does not operate that way.

I want us to see some main points here before we move into the next passage. There are two people here one that is righteous and one that is not. One that is blessed and given grace, and one that is given the just penalty for their wickedness. When we look at these things we must remember apart from God “No one is good no not one”. No one deserves to be the sheep and given eternal life, NO ONE!

Though this may seem unfair to people at times we must see that the only truly unfair event that has ever taken place happened at the cross and in the preceding trial of the only innocent man to ever live. Unfair or unjust only happened to Jesus who was perfect but was treated like and died in the place of sinners. This is grace!!!! The sheep will not be standing on their merits, hard work, wisdom, or good deeds. They will be on their faces glorifying the Lord and His gracious mercy to save anyone. No one deserves to be saved.

When we begin to understand this foundation it helps us to see in a clearer way the beauty of what God has done. So we have two people and two destinations. Jesus will judge all and condemn those who are not found in Him and He will glorify those who He has saved. If God had not predestined any unto salvation through Jesus, no one would have received grace. Since no one was capable of earning Gods favor or having a perfect standing before God, God showed the world His grace to His glory through the planned death of His Son to save unworthy sinners! This is to the praise of His glorious grace!

But why? Why has God done this? I don’t think that people are as confused about what happens to us at judgment, but rather the question that usually comes up is why. Why does God do it this way? Our answer says “God's purpose for this day is for the manifestation of the glory both of His merciful grace in the eternal salvation of the elect and of His justice in the eternal damnation of the reprobate”.

We haven’t clearly seen the fullness of this answer in the Matthew passage so let’s look to our Romans 9 passage to see the clarity it brings.

Romans 9:22-24 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction**,** in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

As Paul unpacks the way God has chosen to save His people Paul anticipates the people’s response. Though we do not have time to totally unpack Romans 9, I do want to read it to give a bigger context for you here. If ever there was ever a passage of scripture that read me, it was this one.

Romans 9:6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. 9 For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” 10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac,

11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” 18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

19 You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” 20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? 22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory.

Do you see how Paul assumes the questions you will have when he teaches the clarity of God's sovereignty in salvation and choosing a people to save?

When he says the phrase, “So then he has mercy on whomever he will and he hardens whomever he will”, our natural response is “How are we guilty then?” If God is sovereign, then when he hardens someone they cannot resist His will. So why does He still find fault?

Now let me pause here. There are many people who have tried to argue that what's being said in this passage is something totally different than what I'm proclaiming to you tonight. Let me ask you, if this is not what the Apostle Paul meant, why does he anticipate the very question you and I have had when we read this verse. This is what I meant when I said “If ever there was ever a passage of scripture that read me, it was this one”. Listen if Paul’s not talking about salvation then why does he argue it as if he is? The clarity here is that you did indeed understand rightly what Paul was saying if the very question that entered your mind when you heard this argument was the question Paul knew would enter and so he says "you will say to me then".

Though this chapter is complicated and rich, it does bring some of the clearest reasons to why God does salvation and judging the way He does. In verse 22-24 we see this clarity again.

Romans 9:22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction**,**

So here are at least two reasons why God has prepared those whom He would not save from their sin but would leave them in their sin and reprobation. One reason is to show his power and one reason is to show his wrath.

In fact, earlier in the passage Pharaoh was the given example of this. God himself said the sole purpose of me creating Pharaoh and raising him up to the power he had was that His power would be displayed through His interactions with Pharaoh (you guys remember what happened there, right?). And that His name (or His glory) would be proclaimed in all the earth!

The same way God raised Pharaoh, for this purpose he also raises all the reprobate unto destruction. You see the reprobate (who, remember should have been all of us in our sin!) serve a purpose to display God's power and wrath which will bring Him glory. Our answer that covers the reprobate part ends with "who are wicked and disobedient". This clarity is important and I've added it all throughout this part to ground our understanding here. The reprobate are guilty, they have a will and had a representative that did exactly what they would have in the garden. They are not the guiltless puppets of an angry god who forced them to sin then punished them for it. They are guilty, they are God hating and the will with which they do this is enough for God to condemn them for it while He remains righteous. We end this section of our answer with this reminder because as our hearts begin to cry out “unfair” and desire to shift blame, just like Adam did in the garden, we must remember we are not guiltless.

**Let's move on into the reason given for God to save His elect people- in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory**

Romans 9:23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory.

Now before we dive into the reasons given for the elect to be saved we must recognize one more reason for the reprobate to be punished. We who are saved have a much clearer understanding of God's grace and love when we see what he saved us from. God's punishment on the reprobate makes known to us (the elect) the Riches of His Glory!

God, for His glory, displays his mercy, in the elect whom he saves. In this design God receives the most glory possible and we who are saved receive the most joy, and understand in the clearest way, what God has done for us.

Before God laid the foundations of this world He had chosen a people unto Himself whom He would save for His glory. This is a hard concept for people to accept but let me submit that it is not a “hard to find concept” when we look to the scriptures.

In my favorite book of all scripture we see God's grace to the elect and the purpose for it so clearly.

Ephesians 1:3 blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

God blessed “US” in Jesus by His choosing us in Jesus “Before the foundations of the World” that we should be holy and blameless (or saved by grace through faith). God did this by predestining us for adoption to Himself as children through Jesus’ redeeming us. See clearly here that God has a people and we call that people the “Elect”. Why do we use this term? Because God did this electing and predestining before the foundations of the world were laid. This was prior to creating us. This was not a response from God as if God looked through time then decided to “predestine” those who *would* believe.

Now why do we labor to make this point clear? For many, when they hear this truth, it rails against their own thoughts and will and they do not like it. For many of us here who understand, embrace, and see the sweet love of God in this work it wasn’t always a treasured doctrine for you, right? I walked with many of you through some tough months and conversations while you worked this over. There were many “this doesn’t feel good” comments through this time.

So why is this good news? What’s so good about it?

This work, according to the end of this Ephesians passage, magnified the glorious grace of God! And this very magnification brings us joy because our God was so good to us that he designed things in such a way that what brings Him the most glory also brings us, the true elect, the believing in God ones, the absolute most joy!

Christian, your God is so good to you that you literally lack the ability and are incapable of grasping the fullness of His grace to you. When Jesus returns to judge and He sets aside the Elect, even the unbelievers will see the glorious grace of God and honor Him in our salvation. This is when God’s grace will be made manifest when our lack of understanding will be removed. God’s word clearly shows us that, by choosing to save an elect people and not choosing to save a reprobate people, His glory will be made most manifest, visible, and clear. The beauty of God’s kindness is that for believers this will bring us the most joy.

Revelation 13:8 and 20:15 also confirm this plan of God.

Remember church when God’s word does not line up with our thoughts, we must not change His word. God has chosen this plan and He will carry it out. There is a day that has been fixed by God when He will judge the world through Jesus the resurrected savior. On this day the fallen angels will be judged. And the elect and the reprobate will be separated by Christ himself and judged. Those who were not saved by grace through faith will be sent unto condemnation and eternal punishment for their wickedness and sin, and those who were saved will be brought unto glory and life eternal with God through the work of each member of the triune Godhead. God the Father elected them, God the Son purchased them, and God the Holy Spirit regenerated them. If God has saved you it is through His grace alone that this was done and oh how sweet that grace is.

Let me end with this parable from Matthew 25.

Matthew 25:1-13 (ESV)

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

There will not be a second chance. When Christ returns will He find you awake and in faith? When He returns on this day He has set if you have not trusted in Him alone it will be too late. So I want to say to those here if you have not repented of your sin and trusted in Christ for salvation then repent and believe. Verse 13 reads Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Church there is a coming day of judgment when all mankind and the fallen angels will be judged. In this final judgment we will give an account for every thought, careless word, and failed obedience. God will at this time separate the elect from the reprobate. There will not be another judgment after this it will be final and we will move on. What are you doing now to spread the gospel for the hope of lost souls to saved and the joy of obedience to our Lord?!

How many of you have loved ones like myself that are desperate for Gods work in their life? Church we must be on mission, we must be on our knees in prayer, and we must be pushing back the darkness of this world for the final judgment is coming. Don’t waste the precious time God has given you, there will be no do-overs when Christ returns.

I love you family I’m praying for you as you consider these things, and I’d ask for your prayers in return. The burden for the lost should weigh on our hearts. The joy of being with our Lord should bring us hope!

Let’s pray.