

Judgment Day

by Leonard Ravenhill

The book of Revelation reveals the final stage of lost men, cut off from God forever, and the judgment of sinners, where the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books are opened, and judgment is rendered.

Duration: 1:18:10

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:2, Revelation 1:3, Revelation 14:15

Topics: "Judgment Day"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher talks about the disciplined life of John Wesley and his commitment to spending time with God every morning at 4 o'clock. The preacher also mentions the importance of intercession and how four out of six women who visited their house had a ministry of intercession. The sermon emphasizes the need to focus on what is done for God, rather than seeking recognition or fame. The preacher also mentions the significance of the Bible and encourages the audience to select one word from it, such as 'judgment,' and reflect on its meaning in light of eternity.

Transcript

I want us to read from the book of the Revelation, and very often you notice preachers call this the book of the Revelation of Saint John. That is not the title. It's the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

It's called, to the scholars, the Apocalypse, or again, the Revelation means the unfolding, the taking away of the veil, as it were. I find the book of the Revelation a book of mystery, a book of majesty, and a book of misery. Because it shows me the final stage of lost men, that forever and ever they're going to be cut off from God.

That if there are a million roads into hell, there's not one road out. That if they continually sing in heaven, worthy as the lamb, in hell, the only thing they sing is, the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we're not saved. And I suggest to you in these awesome days of such universal chaos in morals, in politics, in economics, that maybe every day this coming week you should read the 17th and 18th and 19th chapters of the book of the Revelation.

You know, this book has an imprint on it that no other book has in the whole of the word of God, because in chapter 1 verse 3 it says, blessed is he that readeth and they that hear. There's a lot of people that read, but they don't hear. Blessed is he that readeth and heareth the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein for the time is at hand.

Let's go to the 20th chapter in this book, Revelation 20, and read from verse 11. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat upon it, from whose face the heavens and the earth fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened.

And another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell were delivered up the dead which were in them, and they were judged, every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire, this is the second death, and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Step over a minute into the third chapter of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 3, and we read there from verse 9. 1 Corinthians 3 verse 9, For we are laborers together with God, ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon, for other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, every man's work shall be made manifest, for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide, which he buildeth thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire.

Now back to Revelation chapter 20 again. The judgment of the sinners. I saw a great white throne, typical obviously of purity, and him that sat upon it.

Now we read these things and they kind of slide over our minds, but listen to the awesomeness of this. From whose face the heavens and the earth fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened.

Various titles have been given to this awesome event. John Wesley called it the greater size. Billy Sunday, in his wonderful way, called it payday Sunday.

A cowboy preacher preaching on it called it the last round up. You could call it, if you like, a date with destiny. Or better still, or more awesome still, you could call it a day with destiny.

Or if you like, you could call it your day in court. Now this book begins, the book of the Revelation, by telling us these things will shortly come to pass, and that was two thousand years ago. In a very brief, but very brilliant biography of one of the greatest preachers that ever preached in America or England, the biographer says that this man, well he had strange habits and one of them was to carry in the right hand pocket of his coat a handful of precious stones, a diamond, an amethyst, a sapphire, a ruby, an emerald and so forth.

To add to his strange ways, he would walk into a park where people were going up and down and he would put his hand in his pocket and take one of those precious stones and then he would hold it up to the light of the sun and he would lower it and higher it and seek this, different shades from it or different illuminations from it. And people would go past, particularly children, and you know they'd do this, you know how they do that, you know. I don't mind people doing that.

If they want to point to their own heads, that's okay. If they point to mine, it's something else. But the children were doing this, you know, there's something strange about that man.

And there's an old saying that pater envis pater. Preachers don't usually criticize singers, they criticize preachers. Singers criticize singers.

Pater envis pater. And these preachers were sitting round a table one day eating in England and they began to discuss this famous preacher. And one of them said, I heard him the other night, he was awesome, he lifted us into eternity, he has a vast vocabulary.

I hardly knew whether I was in the body or out of the body. And then my little boy said he'd seen him in the park playing again like a child plays with marbles, playing with precious stones. A hymn writer wrote about the Bible and he called it a golden casket where gems of truth are stored.

It is the heaven-drawn picture of Christ, the living word. There are roughly three-quarters of a million words in the Bible. I suggest that like that man selected his stone and lifted it up to the light of the sun, that we select one word out of this golden casket and that word is judgment.

And we hold it up to the light of eternity. And you can tell God you're not concerned about what this preacher says, but say, Lord, give me some new illumination on this awesome fact of judgment. I thought repeatedly this week of that awesome sermon, one of the greatest ever preached in America.

Back in the 1700s, it was preached by Jonathan Edwards. We're told he brought his manuscript and he had a candle there and he wasn't very good-looking and he had a big nose and he thumbed and he read with monotonous, you know, routine. He read that sermon, sinners in the hands of an angry God.

And people fell off their seats and they clung to the pillars that were holding the gallery up. And he didn't say, oh friends, please excuse me, I never meant to embarrass you like that, there's some psychological phenomena going on here. But while they were laid out, he just lashed them with the word of God.

And people cried out in their despair. There was a reason for it because before he had prayed over and over again, oh God, stamp eternity on my eyeballs. I don't know if anybody else had ever prayed it, maybe we've said it.

But you know, if God should stamp eternity or even judgment on our eyeballs, or if you like, on the fleshy table of our hearts, I'm quite convinced we'd be a very, very different tribe of people, God's people in the world today. We live too much in time, we're too earthbound. We see as other men see, we think as other men think.

We invest our time as the world invests it, we invest our money. We're supposed to be a different breed of people. It must have been very awesome in the days of his flesh to get up one morning and say, well I'm not going to work, I don't know who this man is, but I'll tell you what, I'm so stale and dried up and I've been to the synagogue and the temple and those old boys mutter and they quote about somebody coming and they don't believe he's coming.

You know Enoch says, Jude records, that Jesus will come with ten thousand of his saints. Why didn't he come that way the first time? Why didn't he come sweeping through the sky when it was as black as night over Jerusalem? Why didn't he come with ten thousand saints? Why didn't he come with the sound of trumpets? Why didn't he capture the world like that? He didn't come that way. And when he did come they

couldn't believe that somebody clothed in flesh and blood walking around that had to eat and sleep and do everything else like we do was the Son of God.

But he began to stir Jerusalem and you might have gone into town and say, well I've been on business in Jericho, you know I've got to look after affairs, what are you excited about? Oh we went to see this man Jesus, this fellow that the synagogues are disturbed about and the priests are criticizing. And you know he does amazing miracles. Why? He unplugs deaf ears and he casts the demons out of people and he cures leprosy.

And you know what he did yesterday? He actually raised a man from the dead. My that must have excited them. Jesus going to the tomb and saying roll away the stone.

He didn't roll it away. He gave wine at the feast. But he said you fill the water pot.

There's some labor we have to do. You put the water in the water pot, I'll turn it into wine. You roll the stone away.

And then he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus! My that would have excited me, I don't know about you, I'd have hit the ceiling I think. He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus! As Campbell Morgan says. He said Lazarus come forth.

If he just said come forth all the cemetery would have come and it wasn't time for them to come yet. So he just said Lazarus come forth and he came forth. He was alive, that boy, he was bound, gagged on his face, he had grave clothes, he could only shuffle, his hands were tied.

And that's true about 95% of believers today, they're alive but they're gagged, they're bound, they've still got grave clothes. And Jesus says loose him and let him go. We're bound by superstition, we're bound by the theology of our grandfathers or something.

But the church is gagged and bound, she needs release in this awful hour in which we're living. And the only one that can bring that release is Jesus Christ himself. Why even the disciples, well what do you think of our master now, he's even raising the dead.

And Jesus says in John 5, 28, listen, don't marvel at this, oh if this stirs you, wait I've got a word for you. He says the day is coming in which all who are in the grave shall hear the voice of the Son of God and they shall rise. Did you get that? From Adam, wherever he is right now, in the sands, in the dust, all who are in the grave shall hear the voice of the Son of God.

You see Jesus says I am the resurrection and the life and I believe he did rise from the dead. Not because of that long list in 1 Corinthians 15, but away at the end of the book of Revelation he says I am he that liveth and was dead and behold I am alive forevermore. And I have the keys of death and hell.

Don't you believe that old bachelor in Rome? You don't know who he is, well it's the Pope. He says he has the keys not on your life. Jesus has the keys of death and of hell.

And at the voice of the Son of God, won't that be amazing when he says rise? All that are in the sea and all that are in the grave. I crossed the Atlantic I guess about 18 times on the Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, United States, and after dinner at night when people went to smoke and drink and dance and everything else, I walked up and down the deck and almost every time I crossed it I looked overboard and

I said hey you down there, you're going to get up one day. You buccaneers who died in the Spanish main stealing treasures and the folk that sank in the Lusitania and the people that sank in the Titanic and the people that sank in all the great ships during the war, at the voice of the Son of God they're going to rise.

Millions of them, billions of them, trillions of them. And they're all going to stand at the judgment seat of Christ. That's going to be a spectacle.

Oh where is it going to take place? I don't know. You see this book of the Revelation is not only at the end of the Bible, but it deals with the end of time and then it deals with things that happen at the end of the time. And it's the only book in the world which is authentic.

And everyone that is dead is going to hear the voice of the Son of God. Look for a minute at that sixth chapter in the Revelation. Look at verse 12.

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, O there was a great earthquake. The sun became black as sackcloth of hair and the moon became as blood and the stars of heaven fell to the earth even as a fig casteth her untimely, a tree casteth her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together.

And every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth and the great men and the rich men and the chief captains and the mighty men and every bondman and every freeman they hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains and said to the mountains and rocks fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb for the great day is come. In the end of the book of the Revelation it says of the redeemed which is in the other judgment that they are going to come and they long to see his face.

Again Fanny Crosby blind for 84 years and when somebody said to her it's a shame a great Christian like you is blind. You can't see the sunset. You can't see the lovely flowers.

You're at such a disadvantage. Oh no she said I'm at a great advantage. You know she was the first woman in history in American history blind though she was to address the joint what do you call them different sections of congress.

She addressed the senators and she addressed the congressmen and she addressed the whole government. The first woman in history a little blind woman. And they said and you never see the sunset.

God has denied you so much. She said my dear I have a great advantage over you. What's your advantage? She said don't you realize the first face I ever see will be his face.

Do you wonder she wrote so many hymns about his face seeing his face. That will leave us spellbound when we see his face. But here the great men the rich men the mighty men the rulers.

I saw the dead small and great. Every king every king that's ruled over England the Caliphs of Baghdad the Maharajahs of India. The multimillionaires the billionaires.

They're all going to stand one day. Can you imagine it? At the judgment seat of Christ to give an account for the deeds done in the body. Well of course if you have a judgment you must have a judge.

I do not have any pictures of Christ in my home because I don't think you should make any likeness of any graven image and nobody knows what Christ was like. You see pictures of Jesus as a baby. You see him

as a young man.

You see him sometimes on the back of an animal riding into Jerusalem. But there's a picture I've only ever seen once and it was so grotesque I didn't look a second time. At the voice of the Son of God they're all going to rise and face the eternal judge.

What will he be like? In Australia they show me the picture that they had. Beachcroft or somebody beacher painted a picture of Christ in Australia. He's got lovely blonde hair and bright blue eyes and a lovely flaxen beard.

Well I don't think that was a picture of Jesus. And the Chinese have an interpretation of Christ through their artists. And there are some dreadful pictures I think that have been given by the great masters so called.

And they've given us pictures of Jesus that I'll tell you what it's a very different picture in the Word of God. I believe that the Church of Jesus Christ needs a new revelation of the majesty of God. This is what? This is the King of Kings.

And he's the judge of judges. And it's the tribunal of tribunals. And there's no court of appeal after it.

The verdict is final. There'll be no biased judgment. Two people at least have said to me this week, there is no justice in the earth today.

Maybe there isn't. But I hang on to a word that says, shall not the judge of all the earth do right? The apostle Paul got a picture of Jesus, not with a lamb in his arms, not like the stained glass windows in our so called cathedrals, where Jesus looks pathetically feminine. He sees Jesus and he says, here he is, he's the king immortal, invisible, the only wise God to whom be praise and glory forever.

So we're going to see the King of Kings, he's the judge of judges, in the court of courts. In the final tribunal, there is no tribunal after this. This is finish.

And when I hear people singing, you know, put your hand in the hand of him that walked on the water, forget it. Or the new son that's out, shake hands with Jesus. Listen, when you see Jesus, you're not going up and say, hey buddy, I'm glad you died for me.

When you see Jesus, you'll be almost paralyzed with fear, unless you had a glorified body and a glorified mind. Who is writing the book? This is a revelation to a man on an island, on a devil's island. The worst place, the gathering of the scum of the earth.

And here he is. And if you'd gone to him that morning and seen him sitting on a rock contemplating, you might have said to him, well John, I didn't expect to find you in this hellhole with all these demon possessed men. And here you are in the isle of Patmos.

He said, no I'm not, where are you? He says, I'm in the spirit. He was in the spirit when this enormous revelation was given to him. The picture of Jesus here is not the picture of a pathetic individual pushed around by anybody who wants to push him around.

I think sometimes we think we're going to march up and say, well you know Jesus, in how many years I served you and how many souls I won for you and how many sermons I preached for you. Oh no, no, no, no. Well what will he be like in heaven? Well I'll tell you what the book says he'll be like.

It says his hair is as white as snow, his feet are like burnished brass, his face is like the sun in its strength, his eyes are living coals of fire, his tongue is a sharp two edged sword. And here is John, who used to lean his head on the bosom of Jesus and hear that divine heartbeat. The man that I believe knew more about Jesus than anyone else and when he saw Jesus there on his throne in his majesty with his face brighter than the sun, with his feet like burnished brass, with his eyes like flames of fire, with his tongue majestic and his voice like the sound of many waters.

John the man who had walked with him and talked with him for three years says, that when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. What do you think you and I are going to do? We see there the judge in all his awesome majesty, in all his glory. And we have a picture here of the unholy dead, small and great, standing before God.

And when they see him in his awesome majesty, no they don't worship him, they are terrified. This is a great exposure. Someone called me last night and said, be sure you listen to 60 Minutes tomorrow night.

Because you see, the Shah was interviewed I believe by 60 Minutes and he said, I'll tell you everything that Henry Kissinger told to me. And Henry Kissinger says to the ABC or whoever organizes the 60 Minutes, if you put that on, I'll sue you for I don't know how many million dollars. But he said, instead of that, let me come on the 20 Minutes and you can interview me.

And so they said, alright. But this week he reneged. He said he won't come.

And I understand tonight they are going to tell us what the Shah said and the agreements he made. Oh yes, Mr. Kennedy got away with it, whatever happened at Chappaquiddick. The little girl that was drowned or was she murdered or was she pregnant and snuffed away.

But Mr. Kennedy forgot one thing, it's going to be exposed at the judgment seat of Christ. They couldn't find the 18 Minutes on the tapes of Mr. Nixon. Well, I'll tell you he's got a perfect record of them.

And they are going to be read out one day before millions. You say, Mr. Raymond, I couldn't stand up there or anywhere else, I'm so nervous. If a few people look at me, I want to tell you something, there'll be a thousand million or trillion people when you stand there at the judgment seat without your wife to lean on or your husband or your preacher or a friend.

And Paul is writing in the 14th chapter of Romans and he says, we, so he writes on even to believers at the judgment seat. We must all, there's no exception, we must stand at the judgment seat of Christ. You can't send your lawyer, you can't send a representative.

You can't send a preacher who says, well, I understand this person who's always falling up and down and in and out and he didn't know where they were. I'll explain it to you. And the Lord says, you won't do anything of the kind.

Can you see those millions of unholy dead? All the criminals that ever lived, every prostitute that ever went on the tour? Can you think of all the men who make millions out of pornography? Can you think of the pimps who pollute those little girls that go to West 42nd Street in New York and they go to all the hell holes? Can you imagine when God takes all the history and empties it? When every man that ever walked the streets of ancient Babylon with all its lust? Or Corinth, which was just one colossal cesspool of impurity? All that happened at Las Vegas last night is going to be thrown on the screen in eternity? Every judge that sits in the high court is going to be judged one day by an infallible judge? How long will it take? I

don't know and I don't care because we're not going anywhere. I think one of the joys of eternity will be that the redeemed will see all the unholy dead judged, but the unholy won't see the holy people judged. They won't be there.

It says the books were open. What books? You say, well, Mr. Raynor, I won't be in serious trouble because, you know, I don't have a good memory. Well, I'll tell you what, you'll have one that day.

I didn't find the statistic because in one sense I didn't have time. But in Montreal a few years ago, they put a kind of little electric gadget on the mind of a man and they began to turn his mind back, back, back, and he could recite everything from about the day he was seven years of age. It was all stored up there in the repressed complex of his subconscious, if you like.

And they unfolded everything. There's nothing lost. It was all brought to the surface.

Well, if a doctor can put his finger on a man's mind and restore his memory, what do you think the Son of God is going to do? Oh, there's going to be some awful revelations. Oh, there's going to be some weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. Oh yes, Mr. Kissinger, you're going to be totally exposed.

What you and Mr. Nixon did, lying so long that we were not bombing Cambodia when we were ripping children to death. When we were baptizing them with fire and napalm and taking the skins off their bodies. I'd like to preach a series of sermons on this because, you know, the Word of God says there's going to be a judgment of living nations too.

There are at least seven judgments coming up, just as there are at least five crowns for the believers. You say, well, I'm not quite sure about this, you know. No, your memory isn't faulty.

Everything you've done, every idle word you've spoken, every action. Let me say it here in case I forget later. I remember one day when I was talking with Dr. Toz, as we used to talk together so often, he said to me one day, you know Len, I'm not really too worried about what I've done.

I'm not too worried about the judgment even on my Christian life, which I'll have, I know. But he said, it's the things I could have done that worry me. The things that I missed.

We're not going to be judged just because of what we've done. We're going to be judged for why we did it. Not for the action, for the motive.

What motivated your giving? So you'd have a plaque with your name on? Or you'd be at the top of the list for giving money? Why? What's the motive behind it? Going back to the unholy dead, they're going to stand small and great before God. Sometimes I look at my Encyclopedia Britannica and I think all that history is going to pass before me in flesh and blood, at the judgment seat of Christ. I'd be interested to see Julius Caesar and Tiberius Caesar.

I'd be fascinated when Pontius Pilate stands before Jesus. I think you'll feel less comfortable than Jesus felt standing before Pontius Pilate. They're all going to stand there.

The secret archives of our hearts and lives are going to pass before. Well, you say again, I still hang on to the fact my memory isn't good. You know, it says the books are open.

I don't know what the books are. I think the books of the Ten Commandments for one thing. I think the book of memory for another thing.

You see, this memory is an amazing thing. But you know, memory will last into eternity. Oh, I don't think the redeemed will remember their sorrows and heartaches, but I'll tell you what, the unholy dead will remember every time somebody put a tract in their hand.

They'll feel it through eternity and wish to God it was there. They'll remember that they heard their mother's prayers. They'll remember every sermon.

They're going to remember everything. Because one day a man in hell prayed. It was the wrong place to pray.

He prayed to the wrong person. He prayed to Abraham. He got the wrong answer.

Son, remember in thy lifetime that you had good things. But I don't want my brothers to come here. But Jesus says, remember.

Memory is eternal. It will never die. If you're an unsaved man a thousand million years, you say, well, I came this morning.

My wife wanted me to come. But I don't think I'll come again. I don't like this kind of stuff.

Well, friend, let me tell you lovingly. Go to hell and live with all the scum of the earth. You like to drink, go with the drinkers.

You like to lust, go with the prostitutes. In hell, if you're given to lust after women, you'll have that lust, but there's nothing to satisfy your lust. If you drink, you'll thirst, but there'll be nothing to satisfy your thirst.

You'll give a king's ransom for one drop of water. There isn't even a drop of water, never mind that precious wine you drink. When in God's name is the church going to open her heart again and open her mind again and see again that every man, whether he flies his own private Learjet or how many millions he has or rules over a city, the great of the earth and the scum of the earth, the unbelievers are going to spend their time in eternity.

They're going to live there forever and ever. The good book says, where there worm, dieth none. It will be awesome when we see the founders of these cults stand before God.

The founder of Jehovah's Witnesses, as they call themselves, Russell, a man who wasn't very moral, and he's going to stand there and people up there will scream, put him into the lowest hell and turn the temperature up. But listen, don't you worry about it. The judge of all the earth will do right.

Hell won't be the same for everybody. Some will be beaten with a few stripes, some with many stripes, but I'll tell you what, I'd rather be the least in the kingdom of God than be the greatest in the kingdom of the devil anyhow, both in time and in eternity. I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened.

You know, some people today have great memories. When Themistocles was the mayor of Athens, he could recite the name of every person who lived in town, and there were 20,000 of them. I think it was Cyrus, the king of Persia, knew the name of every man that was in his army, and he never had to be reminded of it.

He faultlessly could recite the name of tens of thousands of people. The famous Sir Walter Scott, the great writer, the night before he was five years of age, so obviously he was just in four, and the night before he was saying prayers at his grandma's knee. And his granny said to him, now Walter, you tonight, do something else for me.

Instead of just praying your prayer, recite a psalm. And he wasn't five years of age. Maybe granny wished she hadn't asked him.

He recited the 119th psalm. That's one way of keeping from going to bed early. The 119th psalm from the mind of a little boy, not five years of age.

Oh, we wish we could scrub some things out there in eternity, at least lost men and women will. We read in the sixth chapter there of the book of the Revelation, they said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of his wrath is come, and who is able to stand? It says in the ninth chapter, verse six, in those days shall men seek death and shall not find it.

They shall desire to die and death shall flee from them. I believe there'll be a day when a man will put a gun to his head and blow his brains out, and to his amazement he'll still be living. He'll throw himself from the top of the Empire State Building or the top of a rock into the valley, and he'll still be living.

They shall seek death, but they shall not find it. There's an awesome aspect for you. Men seeking death and they shall not find it.

Do you remember that second psalm where it says, concerning men that God, he that dwelleth in the heavens shall laugh, God shall have them in derision. Can you think a man playing with every sin he's ever committed? Sins of the flesh and sins of the spirit, sins against God, sins against men, and they're pursuing like the hounds of hell that are baying after him. And he says, if only I could die and get out of this.

And yet if he tries to die, he will not die. And the scripture says, he that dwelleth the Holy God, now he's ceased to be a God of mercy. In the fourth chapter of Revelation you have a Christ on the throne, you have a rainbow over the throne, which is a covenant sign of mercy.

You have four and twenty elders, but there's nobody here sharing justice with Jesus. He sits supreme down the throne. There's no four and twenty elders, there's no sea of glass, there's no rainbow of mercy.

Mercy is gone forever. I care not how twisted and corrupt your life is this morning, you could be the most sensuous man. A soldier said to me one day, do you really believe that God can forgive every sin I've ever committed? I said, he sure can.

That is, if you repent of your sin and you plead for the blood of Christ and you ask for mercy. But he said, you know what I'm haunted with? I was in the army so many years in other countries, and he said, I'm horrified to tell you this, but he said, maybe I've got about thirty children around the world. I've had sex with so many women, he said, that maybe I'm the father of thirty children around the world.

Can God forgive all the rottenness, the corruption of my life? He can. Why? Because this morning Jesus is on a throne of mercy. He shall find grace to help.

But when we see him here, he's not on a throne of mercy, he's on a throne of justice. That tender Christ who went about doing good and he kissed little babies and blessed people. Now, ah, there's nothing more beautiful than a little lamb.

There's nothing more terrible than the wrath of the lamb. And one day God's mercy is going to be cut off. And then it'll be the wrath of the lamb.

Can you think of all the tribes and nations? Can you think of Pharaoh standing before Jesus Christ and having to account for the massacre? Can you think of Herod the Great having to account for the massacre? Can you think of Hitler having to account for the massacre of, we're told of six million Jews? Did you this morning, I mean I know you had your tribulation, the bacon was burned and some other tragedy happened. But did you think this morning that somebody for Christ's sake is going to lose his head in Cambodia or Vietnam? Or Russia? Do you think that Stalin ever dreamed that all the bloody purges he made, he'd have to answer for every precious drop of blood he ever spilled? The Psalmist David says, store my tears in thy bottle. I believe that nobody ever spilled a tear, whether it was spilled in compassion for souls or it was spilled because of a broken heart.

It never fell to the ground, it was stored by God. And God's going to count them out one day. And people may cry, the Jews perhaps may cry of Hitler, God scourge him, scourge him, turn the furnace up in hell.

But listen, God doesn't need any reminders. Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? If a man has to be cast away from God with his own sin and misery forever and ever, if his inner being as it were is torn with lust, if his mind is tortured by his wickedness, well what do you think it would be like if you killed 6 million people like that? God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing. I think one of the great tragedies of our day is that when Mr. Nixon was in office, 18, Dave Wilkerson told me one day when we were talking, he said Len, do you know that 18, 5, 10, 15, 18 different preachers went to Nixon and not one of them ever got through to him? Watergate was not just a political tragedy or an economic tragedy, it was a spiritual tragedy.

There was no Elijah to go there, there was no Nathan that went to David. And I think we'd better watch this business of, you know, God loves you, God loves you, and all the bumper stickers, sloppy evangelism. Will you remind people of the goodness and the severity of God? Will you remind them that there's a day when mercy is cut off forever? Will you remind them that people pray in hell but nobody ever answers? The dead, small and great, are going to stand before God in that awesome day.

And the book of memory is going to be open, and the Ten Commandments and other books that God has are going to be open in that awesome day. And there's no mercy. Mercy is gone forever.

People will be saying the harvest is past and the summer is ended and I'm not saved. That great scholar Daniel Webster was once asked, what is the greatest thought? You have a colossal mind. What is the greatest thought that has ever travelled down the corridors of your mind? He said, I've thought many great things but the greatest thing that I've ever thought of, the most awesome, the most terrifying, the most shattering thought I've ever had is my personal accountability to God one day.

We all, without exception, must stand there and I'm dealing with that and leaving that section. I could stay longer. Remember there's going to be a judgment of the living nations and so forth.

There's going to be a judgment of angels. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6, I guess, he says, don't you know that some of us are going to judge angels? But you see, the thing I'm really saying, I got through my introduction now, let me get to the business here. 1 Corinthians 3, this is the judgment of the believers now.

We are laborers together with God, ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation and another builder thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon for other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ.

If any man build upon this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, every man's work shall be made manifest for the day shall declare it. Because it shall be revealed by fire and the fire shall try every man's work. Notice what it says very carefully here, what sort it is, not what size it is, not the quantity but the quality.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet as by fire. So Jesus said, as it were, or the Spirit puts these into little pockets.

He says your life can be wood or hay or stubble or your life can be silver, gold or precious stones. And the fire shall try every man's work. Do you know this will be very, very significant to the people at Corinth? Do you know why? Because not too long before this was written the whole city of Corinth was devastated by fire.

And there were people whose houses were built with beautiful pillars of granite. And there were people whose houses were made totally of marble. And the poorer people, their houses were made just out of straw.

And some people had houses made out of hay. And some people had houses made out of clay and straw and stubble. And when the fire swept through the city, everybody's house, if you had a house made of wood or hay or stubble, every house was devastated.

And it was in ashes. But the houses that were made of precious stones, they were still standing though they were scorched too. And Paul is writing here and he says when you go to the judgment seat of Christ, even as a believer with all your works, they're either wood or hay or stubble or silver or gold or precious stones.

Now let's visualize. We give a man over here ten thousand dollars and he invests it in wood. The next man is given ten thousand, he invests it in hay.

The next man has ten thousand, it's in stubble. The man over here has ten thousand, he invests it in gold. Wouldn't get much at five hundred dollars an ounce, would he? And the next man at silver, he wouldn't get too much at twelve dollars an ounce.

And the other man in precious stones. Now, this is your life's work. Your life's work is wood, hay, stubble, and the fire.

Remember our God is a consuming fire. Sure God is love. But God also is a consuming fire.

And all our lives, from the moment you began to witness for Christ, all your service, all your labors for him, they're going to be shown, oh, now listen, listen, none of the filthy world, none of the outcasts of hell are going to be there. Won't it be wonderful that you get there, or will it? When you see all the redeemed of all the ages, when you look there and say, you know, there's Abraham, I didn't think he'd look quite like that, but he's going to be there alright. And all the saints of all the ages are going to be there.

A hymn writer says, from earth's wide bounds and oceans farthest coast, through gates of pearls, streaming a countless host, singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost, hallelujah. You know, there used to be an old hymn, and maybe not ten people here could recite it and tell me the first verse, but everybody knows the chorus when the saints go marching in. You know, they dance to that down in Bourbon Street, that hell hole, with all its prostitutes.

They dance to it every night. When the saints go marching in, they shuffle their feet. Listen, that's for the redeemed, it's not for that bunch of scum of the earth.

It's for the redeemed, when the saints go marching in. Can you imagine them going in? From earth's wide bounds, from oceans farthest coast, through gates of pearls, streaming a countless host, singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost, hallelujah. A multitude which no man can number.

I'm going to look in the gallery and see all the saints of all the ages. Man, I'd be thrilled to look on Isaiah, and Jeremiah, and those major prophets, and those minor prophets, and Matthew, and Mark, and Luke, and John, and Acts, well everybody in Acts anyhow, and the Apostle Paul, and Titicus, and all those strange characters. Won't it be wonderful and say, see, those are the men who walked with Jesus.

See, there's Paul, he gave his colossal intellect to God. He wrote about fourteen epistles. He went over Asia Minor.

He didn't sit in a jet and say, you know, how good the Lord is to me, and I'd, no sirree. He was lashed to the post a hundred and ninety-five times. He was in weariness, and fastings, and painfulness, and tribulation, and distress, and famine, and peril, and nakedness, and so on.

In tribulation amongst false brethren, in perils of the deep. You think that man's going to get two ounces of reward for a life like that? Side two. You'll only get rewarded.

Grace is free, but rewards are not free. People say, you're talking about works. Sure I am, because God did.

Jesus did. You know that some saints again are going to judge the earth. Won't that be an awesome task? I, I won't want to be one.

Maybe I never will. Maybe I will. Maybe, maybe God will ordain that I should do it.

Can you see the holy dead all lined up there? All the saints in the Old Testament, all the saints in the New Testament? I, I hope the Lord, I can't give Him any advice. I, I think I try to in prayer sometimes, but I can't give God any advice. I, I'd like to see a pocketful of those gorgeous people who prayed.

Oh my, won't that be wonderful? You know, when you see a political convention, they have a sign up from Cincinnati or somewhere. Maybe there'll be signs in heaven. These, these are the prayer warriors.

These are the great sufferers. These are the travelers. These are the missionaries.

These are the failures. Well, anyhow, there's, there's going to be all kinds of people listed in that great day. It's going to be an awesome thing.

And here is a man, he, his life is just made of wood. Very beautiful. Ten thousand dollars wouldn't do much for a, a stack of mahogany these days, would it? But when the fire goes to it, what do you have? All you have is that wood going down until you've got ashes, maybe up to your ankles.

And that's all that is left. I heard a woman say not long ago, well, praise the Lord. I, I'm, I'm glad I don't have to account for anything when I go to heaven.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Wait a minute. You can never isolate a scripture by itself.

There's no condemnation for past sins. Aren't you mighty glad this morning? I think sometimes, I, I don't wonder that God keep, had to keep saying to Israel, remember thou was the bondsman in Egypt. Remember your sin.

Remember your iniquity. Did you get up this morning and thank God you were pure? Eh? Did you thank him that that devilish fever you used to have for, for sniffing cocaine or drugs or something, that he broke the fetter of it? Are you really glad you're not a prostitute now? You're gonna be a part of a bride of the Lamb? Are you glad he's removed from your heart committessness and bad temper and all those creepy, horrible things that used to master you? A man's life, all his ministry, it showed. Do you see the difference between the wood and the hay and the stubble and the silver and the gold and the precious stones? Wood, hay and stubble are above the ground.

They catch the eye. Silver and gold and precious stones are below the ground. Nobody sees them.

There's a lot of public ministry in that day that's gonna go down in ashes, my brother. You say, well, it doesn't say that the Christians are gonna be judged out of the book. Yes, I think it does.

Where? In Malachi. It says that God has a book of remembrance. And I think it would do you good before you go to bed every night this week to ask God, what did you put in your book today from my life? It doesn't necessarily have to be some outward act.

You could worship God on a tractor. You could worship God. It's not the best way, but you can do it still.

The fire is gonna take the big, shoy life of that man and burn it and it's only gonna be a bunch of ashes. Wood, hay. Well, if you put \$10,000 in hay, you get a lot.

Yeah, and you get a lot more ashes too when the fire got to it. And stubble? You could buy half the stubble in Texas maybe for \$10,000, but boy, you'd have a mess when the fire got to it. Instead of ashes to your ankles or ashes to your knees, it would be up to your nose maybe and you couldn't get your way out.

But that's what lives are gonna be like. Wood, hay, stubble. I used to have trouble with these boys always begging, you know.

And it makes you wonder if some Christians do have hearts of flesh that they won't send them money to keep their jets going. You know, I believe every dime that ever came into a gap year, every dime that ever came to Oral Roberts, anybody else is gonna answer for it at the judgment seat of Christ one day. Jesus talked about these men who go and take widows' houses.

Well, that's what they're doing now. They're not satisfied that you give while you're living. They'll ask you to hand your house over to them and leave this in your will.

And if you do, you'll get a better place in heaven. Don't believe it for a moment. It's a lie from hell.

They're gonna give an account to God in that day, but I believe we're gonna give an account too. A brother was telling me this week when he got baptized, it was a kind of a sudden thing, and he went down into the water there and suddenly realized he had his wallet in his pocket. Well, not many pockets get, you know, not many wallets get baptized.

We kind of say, Lord, you look after my sins, I look after the rest. Every penny you earn since you became the property of Jesus Christ, you'll give an account of before God. It doesn't just take your sins, it takes yourself.

It takes the government of your life. There's an awful lot of money being wrongly invested. You know what I think? I may not be right, I usually am, but I may not be quite right in this, but you know what I think? I think that now the crunch is on the nation.

I think it's gonna get worse and worse. This is gonna be the roughest year we've ever lived. I told some of you three years ago that an important man called me late at night and said, Brother Aden, in the next three weeks in American history, the next three weeks we're gonna live will be the most important in American history.

One of the most famous preachers in the country called me at nearly midnight and said, you know what? I've come to this conclusion. God Almighty's already taken his hands off America. For the simple reason we've had so much light and rejected it.

Carter can't make a move to the right. If he makes it to the right, it's still to the left. Every move he makes is a counter move that makes him sink further and further in the mire.

And it's not only true that we live in a world of bankrupt politics, we live in a world, and this is the most tragic of all, of a bankrupt church. Isn't it awesome to think that all this stuff, we sing, all that will be glory for me. Friend, you've got one big stumbling block.

Let me rush through this, time's going. Your life is wood, the fire's gonna come. Hay, the fire's gonna come to it.

Stubble, the fire's gonna come to it. But what if your life is silver and gold and precious stones? What is gold a sign of? Gold, I believe, there is a sign of our devotion to God. You wouldn't get much gold for ten thousand dollars today.

And I could have a small induction crucible here, and put your ten thousand dollars of the gold and press buttons, and it moves and moves. What happens when you burn gold? Nothing, all you do is change it from solid to liquid, but you don't reduce it. Can you see all the saints of all the ages? And Leonard Ravenhill is standing there before a Christ, whose eyes are full of holiness, where the place is breathing holiness, where there's all the majesty of an awesome God.

And he reads the record of my poor life before all the saints of all the ages. When he puts the fire to my devotional life, am I just a good showman? I sure like to preach, because God called me to preach. And I

don't care how I preach, I don't care whether you believe me either, I'm not responsible for that.

I preach out of my heart, all I believe, and I'd die for it. But say, am I just a showman? What's my secret life like? We were talking just earlier, yesterday I guess, about the woman that came with an alabaster box of ointment. You know, I read that story for years, and heard it preached on before ever I realized, she came for one reason only, she came to worship Jesus.

How do you know? Because she brought the most sacrificial gift that she had. How do you know? Because she never said a word while she was there. How do you know? Because she said, I won't wash his feet with water, I'll wash them with tears.

I won't dry his feet with a gorgeous towel, I'll wipe his feet with the hair of my head. And she poured out that costly fragrance, and then she wiped his feet again. So what happened? The fragrance she poured out on him, came back on her.

Why isn't my life more fragrant? Because you don't take time to be holy. Because you think if you stuff all the stuff you get at Agape, which I'm sure is good, or some other Bible school, that this is... No, no, no, no, no. God isn't going to measure your intellect, the size of your hat.

He's going to try with his fire, my devotional life. I think again of a statement Dr. Tozer made to me once, he said, Len, you know what? He said, we'll hardly get our feet out of time into eternity, and gaze on eternity with what we bow our heads in shame and humiliation, and say, my God, look at all the riches there were in Jesus Christ, and I've come to the judgment seat almost a pauper. For God has not merely given us Jesus Christ, he's given us all things.

And because there isn't enough joy in the house of God, we need entertainment. Because entertainment is the devil's substitute for joy. Because there isn't enough power in the house of God, people are always looking for the last scientific development, and their hair stands up when they see some fancy show on TV.

I think before we point the finger at the world, we better turn to the church and say, look, we better all get sackcloth and ashes, and humble ourselves, and say, Almighty God, when I see the church in the New Testament, they didn't have stately buildings, they didn't have paid evangelists, they didn't have a lot of money, they didn't have organization, they couldn't get on TV and beg, but I'll tell you what they did, they turned the world upside down. And I'm embarrassed to be part of the church of Jesus today, because I believe it's an embarrassment to a holy God. Most of our joy is clapping our hands and having a good time, and then afterwards we're talking all the drivel of the world.

Oh, to be lost in him, to be consumed in him. We mentioned this week a little frail woman, my dear boy, that's in South America, many of you heard him preach. Paul, I think he has every book that Amy Wilson Carmichael wrote, about 30 of them.

He's drenched himself in her teaching, she was a fine little Irish woman, she had a curvature of the spine. The last three years of her life, they had to lift her in and out of bed, change her diapers, she was helpless, but she loved 350 little children. She wrote this, from subtle love of softening things, from easy choices and weakenings, not thus are spirits glorified, not this way went the crucified, from all that dims thy calvary.

Oh, Lamb of God, deliver me. You know, we're overboard on laughter and happiness. There's an old saying in the world, laugh and the world laughs with you.

I change it, I say laugh and the church laughs with you, but weep and you weep alone. You go so near to the heart of God, we sang it on Friday, we had a marvelous Friday night prayer meeting. I wouldn't have taken that Friday night meeting for \$10,000.

God came and we were broken and humiliated before him. You get so near to the heart of God, that you share his grief over a world and over a backslidden church that we have today. Can he share his sorrow with you? Oh yes, you'll get filled with the Holy Ghost and get a bank balance, that's all right, if you do, God will hold you to account for it.

But are you big enough to say, Lord, in this crucial hour in human history, let me fill up the sufferings of Christ. Are you prepared to take, challenge demon power and say, listen, I've moved into the place where the apostle Paul was when he said, I glory in tribulation, in necessities, in reproaches. Because if you're going to get mature in God, all the dwarfs around you will criticize and sneer at you and say you're trying to be holier than the rest of us, huh? You say you don't have time for basketball or go and see a baseball game.

No, maybe you don't, that's nobody's business but yours and God's. You'll discover this, the men who have been most heroic for God have been the men with the greatest devotion of life. I remind you again that one day I was in the Bible School of Wales and dear Mrs. Reese Howells, her husband was dead now, we stood on the terrace there and she turned back, she said, you see the room there? I said, yes, I see that room.

That door, yes. Daddy, meaning her husband, went through that door at six o'clock in the morning and he stayed there till six o'clock at night, every day for eleven months except the one day that his mother died. There's the great test.

This isn't the greatest job on earth, it's a good job, preaching, it's not the greatest. I used to wonder, why does the Bible say that the last shall be first and the first shall be last? I'll tell you what, I know down at Nacogdoches there, we had six women came to our house a week last Thursday and four of them have a ministry of intercession and they don't strut about it. And they don't get the paces in magazines.

Four of those six women have everlasting love. We've mutilated all the hymns, most of Charles Wesley's hymns had thirty stanzas, now they've about six. We've done that with other things.

You'll see a little board up in homes, in offices sometimes, only one life, it will soon be past, only what's done for God will last. That's not what the poet wrote. The poet wrote this, only one life, it will soon be past, only what's done for God will last, and when I am dying, how glad I shall be if the lamp of my life has been burned out for thee.

You think all Christians die happy, not on your life. They die as miserable as sinners, some of them. Why? Because I've misused my time and I've misused, Lord, if you'll only spare me to do this.

Some of you prayed that on a hospital bed. Some of you women, when you thought you were dying, giving birth to a child, said, Lord, if you spare my life, I'll do this, that, and the other. Have you done it? The only thing that will tie me in victory continually through the blood of Christ is my personal devotion to Him, the Son of God.

My adoration that I give Him my tribute every day. It's more than my service. It's more than giving my money.

That I love Him and I adore Him and I magnify Him. I take Him, as it were, by the feet. For all the people who worshipped Jesus, the woman came and brought an alabaster box of ointment and she was at His feet.

She was at His feet on every occasion, that woman, if you follow the story through. When He appeared in the upper room, they seized Him by the feet. You get a little bit further in the book of the Revelation, or if you go to the sixth chapter again, you find there it says at the end that the four and twenty elders now, they fell down at His feet.

Do you wonder Matthew Bridges wrote that lovely hymn, Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne, crown Him the Lord of spheres, the potent agent of time, crown Him the Lord of love, crown Him the Lord of spheres, whose power a scepter sways from pole to pole, that war may cease and all be prayer and praise. The one thing that's wrong with that world outside is it thinks it's done with Jesus Christ and it hasn't even started with Him yet. For He stands at the end of the trail for every man, rich or poor, bondman or free, black or white, intellectual or ignoramus.

Watch your devotional life this morning. Would you like Gabriel to hand me the book of your devotional life for the last month and read it to this fine audience? The gold is going to be tried to our devotional life. The silver, what is the silver? I guess you can interpret it different ways.

I like to interpret it this way. The book of Proverbs says the tongue of the just is as choice silver. Yeah, every idle word you've spoken, even since you were saved, God has a kind of, you know He doesn't need a tape recorder, but He has an eternal record of it.

You know the gossip, the slander, the criticism, the prejudice. You know when somebody upset you and instead of being quiet, you spilled out just what was on your heart at that moment. Can you think of all those awesome words? Can you think of all the words we've preached to thousands of people over the years and we're going to answer and the fire is going to be put to them? Well, will they be hay and stubble or will they abide the fire? The fire shall try every believer's work.

Silver, gold, precious stone. What are the precious stones? Well, when I read that, I think of the breastplate that was on the priest, the priest in the Old Testament. It was divided into twelve.

Each stone was a different stone. Each stone had the name of the tribe on it. And he went into the holy place to pray with a breastplate on him.

Oh, well, how do you handle this? How do you handle this? Do you know why the world is poor and sick outside? Because we really don't know how to pray, that's why. Because we're satisfied we've left our lousy living and we don't drink and lust and damn ourselves every day. And now we're Christians and we're so content and so happy and so satisfied.

I've said it many times. I've said it again this morning that no man is greater than his prayer life. I don't care about his organization.

These boys all have a, what is it, a mailing list. Doesn't worry me. Let me live with a man a while and share his prayer life and I'll tell you how tall I think he is or how majestic I think he is in God.

Supposing I could say to Gabriel this morning, Gabriel, hand this book down. Well, let's preview eternity. Here we are, millions of people, all the prayer warriors.

America has produced some of the greatest. Praying Payson of Portland had a floor harder than that. And at the side of his bed when he knelt he used to pray and pray and pray.

And when they washed his body for burial he had great big hooves on his knees like camels, like history says that James in the Bible had camel's knees. At least tradition says that. Well, it's a living fact that Payson had them.

And when they were washing him somebody said, well, what, abnormal knees, they're calloused, they're heavy with calluses. Yeah, because he used to pray at the side of his bed with energy. And in that hard floor he wore two grooves like that, about six or seven inches long where he used to pray and make intercession.

Praying Payson of Portland. Many of you can buy the book. If you haven't read it, I think it's in the book still there, Praying Hyde.

John Hyde. I met somebody who used to hear him pray and told me what an amazing thing it was to hear him pray in India. You know, we think we've got a message, you've got to drop it here and run there and catch a plane here and go there and say, no, no, that's not the greatest ministry.

It's good God has ordained it. But the greatest ministry, I'm sure, is the ministry of intercession. Let's ask Gabriel to hand the book down.

Let's look at all the apostles and all the saints of all the ages. There's Finney, look, there's Finney with his amazing revival. There's William Boole, the founder of the Salvation Army.

There's John Wesley. Here are all the great heroic figures. We've all read about them.

And here they are all watching while the book is handed down. And somebody's going to read the record. Would you volunteer and say, well, I'd be happy if you read my record to this multitude? Supposing I say, Gabriel, hand me the record for 1724.

When I open the book there, I read 1724. I go down the bees. David Braynard, just a young American, died at the age of 28.

All he possessed was a cowhide that he had tanned and he wrapped himself in it and put a rope around him and he rode over the Susquehanna River there and he followed the Indians. And he had tuberculosis. And he says, I got up this morning and the Indians were still committing adultery there and still drinking there and still beating their tom-toms and still shouting like hell itself.

He came out of the teepee he was sharing and he said, there was nowhere to pray. So I went out in the forest. And he said, I knelt and the snow was up to my chin.

And it was a half hour after sunrise. He weighed about 95 pounds. No, he didn't have a heater with him or anything else.

He was just there in the frigid snow, half an hour after sunrise. And he said, I did so wrestle in prayer, he says in his archaic English. I wrestled in prayer for about 12 hours.

The sun was setting and then I could only touch the snow with the tips of my fingers. The snow was up to his chin when he started praying. And he makes intercession of little body that weighed 90 pounds until the sweat of his body melted the snow.

Well, God pity us. We can't get folk to our churches and we've got velvet cushions on the seats and we've got nice stuff on the floor so our darling little knees won't get hurt. And boy, we can't get, we can't muster a corporal's guard to pray in the average church.

Praying patron of Portland, John Hyde, the great intercessor, David Brainerd. When God opens that book of intercession, when he puts the fire to their prayer life, their devotional life, I'll tell you what, there'll be nothing lost. It won't be wood, it won't be hay, it won't be stubble.

I discovered this poem just yesterday. It's called His Plan for Me. I didn't have time to memorize it.

When I stand at the judgment seat of Christ and he shows his plan for me, the plan of my life as it might have been, had he had his way, and I see how I blocked him here and I checked him there and I would not yield my will, will there be grief in my Savior's eyes, grief, though he loves me still? Would he have me rich and I stand there poor, stripped of all but his grace, while memory runs like a hunted thing down the paths I cannot retrace? Lord of the years that are left to me, I give them to thy hand. Take me and break me and mold me to the pattern that thou hast planned. It's going to be an awesome day.

When I was at school, I sat about two-thirds back there. There was a kind of a level here, then there were some seats up here and I sat in the first little gallery, as it were. And you know, I didn't mind school too much, but I was very envious in those days of the school captain.

He worked just across the aisle from me. He was the best soccer player and I wanted to be that. He was the best at cricket and I liked cricket.

He was the best runner we had and I liked running. And he was a very good artist. He was quite a brain.

And you know, if I could ever save up my stomach aches, I saved them till the day before the final examination. But my mother was smart. She knew I was saving them up.

I don't know how. And I'd get up that morning and say, Mother, oh, I don't feel good at all. I think I should stay at home.

She'd say, OK, you can stay at home tomorrow, but not today. But today was the day of judgment. And you know, the things would be put down on the board there and as soon as they were down, Renton would get his, his name was Renton and he'd get his paper and he'd dash through it.

Man, he was through the first two or three subjects before I'd even got the things read. Oh, he and another guy that were there, they used to say, boy, it's exams. And they knew they'd be number one and number two and every year I was at school, they were number one and number two on the chart when it came out.

These boys were always at the top. They had no fear of the judgment. They were prepared for it.

I still believe in the majesty of that eternal court with the king of kings and the lord of lords and the judge of judges. I still think there'll be an awesomeness about it, so majestic. You see, there's no possibility, there's no possibility of any rehearsal.

And what? There's no possibility of any repetition, because again, this is the final judgment. And to some, God will say, come ye blessed, and others he'll have said, depart from me. I don't believe there'll be any envy.

I won't do it, but I could, I could remind you there are at least five, five crowns to be given in reward. Paul says that the lord will give him a crown of righteousness, which he says, the lord will not only give to me, but all them that love his appearing. There's a crown for the martyrs, those who will die today and have died other days, there's a crown to be given to them.

Crowns, crowns, crowns, we will all be the same in heaven. There'll be great distinctions in heaven. You can't think that the dying thief, he'll be in heaven alright, because he said, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

And sure enough, God will do that, Jesus said he would. But he'd wasted his life. Take just one character, John Wesley.

He was saved soundly when he was thirty-five years of age. Turn thirty-five round, it makes fifty-three. Put fifty-three and thirty-five together, makes eighty-eight, the time he died in 1891.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day, and there have I, though vile as he, cast all my sins away fine. But are you suggesting that the man who got in on the last tick of the clock is going to have the same reward as John Wesley? Yeah, Wesley made an awful lot of money. Do you know what he did with it? He built orphanages, he built churches, he printed Bibles, he printed hymn books.

There was no time wasted in his life. It was methodical, systematic. He went to dinner with the greatest man in English literature, and the man said, now you've finished dinner, let's fold our legs under the table, he said.

You know, cross your legs under the table, and let's just have a nice time of conversation. And Wesley said, I'm sorry, I have to go. Oh, but it is not yet nine o'clock.

No, it's not. Well, why are you going? He said, I have an appointment in the morning at four o'clock. At four o'clock? Tomorrow morning? Every morning of my life, he said.

With who? With God. He disciplined his life, he disciplined his body in eating, he disciplined his hand in his pocket. We shall stand at the judgment seat of Christ.

An awesome prospect for any of us. But the hymn writer says, the eternal glory is gleam afar, to nerve my faint endeavor. So now to watch, to work, to war, and then to rest forever.

We had a lady in a church that I pastored, actually I was assistant pastor, and the lady was the wife of the pastor, Dr. Fawcett. And she didn't have a great voice, but they often asked her to sing, and she used to sing the same old hymn every time. And the last verse of that hymn said this, he was not willing that any should perish.

Am I his follower? And can I live longer at ease with these souls going downward, lost for the lack of the help I might give? He was not willing that any should perish. Master, forgive and inspire us anew. Banish our worldliness.

Help us to ever live with eternity's values in view. Said that great man who birthed that revival, God, stamp eternity on my eyeballs. You know, if we can't live as a different breed of people on this earth, we have no right to live here.

We shouldn't be affected by changing customs, or changing styles, or changing opinions, or whether the stock market goes up or down, or whether the clouds are gathering. That doesn't make any art. We ought to live every day as though we come out of another world into this world with the power of that world upon us.

To live and speak and move and have our being in Jesus Christ. It's going to be an awesome day. Have you kind of figured how you'll get on when you stand there? Before all the saints of all the ages and you and I are to stand there alone on the dais and be judged for the deeds done in the body, for every aspect of our lives, for our praying, for our giving, for our living, for our talking.

No, it's not so simple to be a Christian. After all, it's a majestic thing. I remember crossing a square in the city of Bath in the 1940s.

I saw two very fine young ladies. Well, one was a young lady, the other was only a girl, and they were erect and beautifully dressed, and they marched across that square, and I thought, there's something different about those girls. And then when I went round the other side, I discovered it was they were princesses at that time.

Our present Queen of England, Queen Elizabeth, and her sister Margaret. It was the princesses of the royal family. And you know, there was a dignity about them very different from anybody else who walked.

And the Word of God says, as he was, so we in this world. We ought to live eternity conscious in time. Ready to be cut off at any moment.

Supposing you were cut off in this moment, would you like your life story read before all the millions in eternity? Do you think you might shrink when you hear how God used David Brainerd, or John Wesley, or some little washerwoman down there that has a life of intercession? Or a little woman in Ireland, and she had two shops. And this shop, it paid all the family expenses, and this shop, she saved all the money for missions. And she sent one, two, three, four of her children to the mission field, and she financed them all.

Man, she's going to have a reward one day, isn't she? Because she was doing it as unto him. And I don't care, there's no burden too heavy, there's no situation too hard for the one that you love. And if we're love-controlled, love-motivated, love-energized, it'll be all right when we stand up there.

Because if there's anything about love, one thing about it, it's obedient. And if we get back to a people who are really baptized with obedience, submissive to the total will of God, not concerned about human opinion, not asking for more to spend prodigally on ourselves, but say, Oh God, I want this life of mine adjusting, so when I stand in your awesome presence, as James says, we shall not be ashamed at his appearing. Let's pray.

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