

A God That Keeps Records

by Rolfe Barnard

The sermon emphasizes the importance of witnessing and being a good messenger boy for the Lord, even in the face of opposition and persecution, and highlights the significance of the Apostle Paul's pattern and the record of God.

Duration: 56:13

Scripture: Psalm 130:4-5, Matthew 6:33, John 5:29, Romans 3:20, 2 Corinthians 4:3, 2 Corinthians 4:7, Hebrews 11:1

Topics: "Judgment Day"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher recounts a tragic incident where a young man lost his life in an oil rig explosion. The preacher uses this event to emphasize the reality of judgment and the consequences of not being written in the book of life. He urges the congregation to witness the fire of judgment and to stand before God as a holy and obedient people. The preacher highlights the importance of honoring God through obedience, worship, and giving, and warns against robbing God of what is rightfully His.

Transcript

If you have your Bible now, you'll turn it to the 4th chapter of the book of 2 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians chapter 4. And I want to begin reading at verse 3 to get the setting for the text that we're going to use tonight, which is verse 7. This is 2 Corinthians chapter 4, beginning at verse 3. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost, in whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bond-slaves for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. Having this treasure in earthen vessels, this gospel, this having experienced the darkness done away with, and the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, having shined in our hearts, having that wonderful treasure in these earthen vessels, not angels to preach, but sinful men and women who have been visited by the God of all grace, and that in line with the purpose of God, that the power should be in him, and not anywhere else. Therefore he is pleased to take weak earthen vessels and show forth his glory in the redemption of sinners.

Having that wonderful treasure in these broken, sinfully marred bodies, we are troubled on every side, yet we are not distressed. We are perplexed, but we are not in despair. We are persecuted, but we are not forsaken.

We are cut down, cast down, but not destroyed, always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. The Apostle Paul is the believer's pattern. God said, I'm going to let him suffer to show a godless world how much a man can suffer for my sake.

He's a pattern of long suffering of a God who wills the salvation of this whole world. He's the pattern of everybody who's had the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ shining in his own heart. And he's the pattern of everyone who is as an earthen vessel, perplexed but not put out of business, persecuted but not in despair, forsaken and cast down but not utterly destroyed, always bearing in his body the marks of the dying of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He's the pattern for us to study. He's the pattern for us to use as we seek to witness a good confession of what the Lord Jesus is and has done for us. The Apostle Paul has a pattern, and we might be helped tonight and encouraged if we notice five things about him.

In the first place, this one who had all of this glory in his soul, and yet in this old earthen vessel, this Apostle Paul had to pray for open doors. He had to pray for open doors. He never got a chance to witness except in answer to prayer for God Almighty to lock the jaws of a lion on one hand and open or close door on the other.

And I am persuaded, my friends, that only those doors that are unlocked by the intercessory opportunity of God Almighty's people, they just have to be opened. We can't live without it. Only such doors would avail us if we knocked it down.

Nothing if we pushed through it would do no good. But those doors that God opens in answer to the cry of his people are the same kind of doors that Paul so successfully ministered the glory of Christ wherever he went. My soul, this world is not a friend to Christ.

This world is not a friend to Greece. We've heard it, we've heard it, we've heard it, now we experience it. Men and women are not rushing to get a glimpse of the glory of God in the face of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Men and women do not sit at the feet of the Holy Spirit as he bears witness to Christ in the written word. We can't follow Jesus Christ around in the flesh, he's not here. But we can sit at his feet as the Spirit unveils the face of Christ to hungry hearts through his revelation of the word of the living God.

Men are not doing that now. Men are not rushing and the reason is they've been blinded. There's a great adversary of sinners.

That man out yonder in the streets is not what he is just because he's a man. He's what he is because he's a man blinded by the God of this world. And the God of this world working 28 hours a day and in between time to see to it that men shall not see the knowledge, come to see the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

And Paul had to constantly pray for open doors if he's a pattern for believers. Take notice if you're a believer. Paul's message was opposed by the religious people of his day.

He never went anywhere and established to work on the rock Christ Jesus that soon men and women were not following in his way to destroy everything he'd done. And if he'd just done it they would have destroyed everything. We need to take comfort and consolation from the fact that there never has been a day since Jesus Christ hung on the cross when the religious world in any generation wasn't a bitter enemy of a gospel that gives glory to God and that bases man.

And we may not think that we've been just sidetracked in one day. There never was a time except in the days of the visitation of God almighty in power when by the Holy Spirit he walked the streets and knocked on doors and rang their bells and sent spiritual earthquakes when this whole world was interested in hearing the gospel of the grace of almighty God. If you're a believer, try and go on to where you work and your next door neighbor to get in a word edgewise for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember Paul's a pattern for you and religious people opposed his message. And if your message is the message of conquering, redeeming, sanctifying, keeping grace and reigning grace, you'll be persecuted too. I was speaking to Brother Everhard a moment or two this afternoon, and I told him to be sure and get all the tape he could for Brother Bright that he was having these tapes spread down in that country.

And then I told him about young preacher Dockery, wanting him to be certain to keep them so he could get them. For Brother Dockery takes these tapes, whether he can be here or not, and he sits down there as he gets off from Western Electric. And he'll sit there for an hour.

And some of these tapes he'll play as many as 30 times. And he'll play them over and over again. And he says he gets to where he just shouts in victory.

And then he told me today, he said, I taped the messages on the tape. And I hear them, and I hear them, and I hear them, and I memorize them, and I weep over them, and I pray over them, and I go and preach them. And said, oh, hell's busting loose out where we are.

And I brought that up to say this, ladies and gentlemen, listen to Brother Barnard tonight. The only way on earth that people are being reached now is by going like this is where they are. The church houses of this city are not full tonight.

I know it's August. I know it's still vacation time. I know that people are everywhere now getting out of the hot weather.

I know all that we're up against. And I know full well that God Almighty knows what's going on. And I welcome this ministry.

I go in this ministry. Tapes, I have tapes now in I think about 30 foreign mission fields. And missionaries take them and preach them and then use them and let people in.

I advise you, Brother Tim, to keep it up. Go into those colored homes. You can't get people to come to hear people preach now.

They're not interested very much, that's true. But God's still on the throne. And we'll go in that door.

And we'll go in that other door. And we'll slip up on this side. And we'll slip up on the other side.

And God shall get to glory. And here shall be the victory. Ours is just to be good messenger boys for the Lord.

Somebody says people are not hungry. Well, nobody can make them hungry but my Lord. Somebody says people are not thirsty.

They're satisfied with having dug them out. The cisterns and drinking water out of wells they dug themselves. And they're not interested in the water that comes from the Lord Jesus Christ.

But oh my soul, our business is not to find out whether men are hungry or not. Our business is not to find out whether men are thirsty or not. Our business is to get the word out.

It's God's business. He's the only one that can create a thirst in a human heart. And our job is to do what he called us to do.

But the message is hated. The message that humbles a man and exalts God. The message that trusts more in the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ has been entrusted with the welfare of the will and the prosecution of the good pleasure of a sovereign God.

And that that will will be done. Because it's been left entrusted in the chosen, anointed, elected son of God who came down here to do a job. And bless God, come hell or high water, in good times or out in seasons of refreshing or in the times when the rains do not come.

Bless the Lord. This hated message is in the good hands and the keeping of the Lord Jesus Christ who was entrusted with the will of God to save the world. And I rejoice in that.

Our hands, they're too feeble. Our hearts are too weak. We can't rule and love and win this generation.

But we can take to them, whether they hear it or not, this hated message that calls the Apostle Paul to be hated and persecuted and not destroyed. If you're a believer and you're coming to see that the New Testament plan is not to get somebody to come to a place but for God's people to go where sinners are and look for and pray for and enter in every door that God even opens a little bit for you to witness a good testimony of your gospel of what Christ has come to mean to you. That's your gospel.

Not a message of theology. Not to explain a doctrine. But to proclaim the gospel according to you.

This is what Christ is to me. This is what Christ has done for me. It worked for me! And if it worked for me, it will work for you.

Paul has a pattern for every believer. He was a fool for Christ's sake. A plain fool for Christ's sake.

You listen to me now. Take out of our organized churches today the businessmen that joined the church because it helped the business. Take out the rest of them that go for social purposes.

Take out the rest of them who go because it's quite the thing to do. And keep on whittling it down. Possess those who are willing and out on a limb so far.

They are fools for Christ's sake. Fools for Christ's sake. Paul said I'm a fool.

We're fools. This world says they're crazy. Ah, my soul.

He ain't talking much about us, is he? Huh? Fools for Christ's sake. As a pattern for believers, Paul knew the terror of the Lord. Paul said knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord.

Don't know what he meant. How did he know it? In what sense did he know the terror of the Lord? But he says it. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord.

We persuade men. We persuade men. Don't know what he means there.

We plead with men. We warn men. We exhort men.

Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord. Paul knew something of what Noah felt. The scriptures say by faith.

What does that mean? Well, God told him, and he believed what God said. By faith. Acting on what God said.

Acting as if what God said was so. By faith, Noah, being warned of God. Watch it.

Of things not seen as yet. Moved with fear. What? Moved with fear.

Noah, God's child. Noah, God's servant. Hear me.

You live in a good age of easy familiarity with a God who's all love. Hear me. What God showed Noah that was to come to pass scared Noah.

He moved with fear. Moved with fear for himself, oh no. But something of the holy all settled on that man.

As with the eyes of faith that had seen God and had heard God speak. He looked out yonder and never doubted that what God warned him would come to pass. Though it not yet come to pass.

That old man with a trembling step. And with a broken awesome heart. Moved with fear and prepared in awe.

I can see him kneeling away. He's scared. Judgment's coming.

Judgment's coming. Paul said, knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade thee. And the fifth thing, Paul's our pattern.

He witnessed with a judgment in view. As a dying man. The dying man.

When I was a little teeny weeny boy. I used to hear the white haired, white mustached, bearded preacher. Talk about preaching as dying men.

The dying men. I wonder what the men. After I got to be what they call a preacher.

I used to read about the Saint of Spurgeon. They claim he's the most influential Baptist preacher that ever lived. I guess so.

I'd read about Brother Spurgeon. Preaching to more people than any man living in his day. Writing books that are still read by millions everywhere.

Everywhere. All the so-called Christian world. Admiring him.

Apparently except the preachers and they all cussed him. I'd read where Brother Spurgeon would sometimes go for three weeks at a time. Just right in the pit of hell.

Well when people would come around him. In his awful depression. You'd even wonder whether he knew the blessed Lord or not.

I couldn't understand. How a man that had the world at his feet. Could get so depressed as Spurgeon was.

I read the life story of George Whitefield. Perhaps the greatest preacher that ever walked on the shores of America. And I'd read how he'd come in from his preaching journeys.

He'd go off in the room by himself and get out on his knees. He begged the Lord to be merciful to him and take him. And let him go.

Give him rest. How I've read it. Marvel at what he said.

Lord the burden's so great. I can't stand up under it any longer. What's he talking about? Oh beloved.

I'm not talking about a public preacher. All the days of your life you've lived. Whether it's depending on public preachers to keep this world out of hell.

And I'm trying every time I stand up and speak to Brother Grady to say. God called you to ministry. God's called you and God's called you.

And you've got your gospel. You've got the gospel according to you. And you must witness it and confess it.

A young man walked up to me in Kenosha, Wisconsin. I was preaching in the factory and he said, Preacher, what do you do when you witness to a man that spits in your feast? And I said, oh mean, hot-tempered, rough-boned, probably knocking down. But what I ought to do if there's anything like the Lord Jesus Christ.

Is to thank God for the privilege of having somebody spit on me. When I talk about the Lord. Hear me tonight, my brethren.

The unseen world aren't here. They're not listening to any man preach tonight. They're out having pleasure.

But listen to me. Listen to me. Cry to God to give you.

And cry to God to give me. Something of that that made George Whitfield. Under the crushing burden of it.

He could stand up and preach in a voice without a loud speaker. To 20,000 people standing out in the cow pasture. His voice was so powerful at one time he broke up the county fair.

And the people left the fair to come to hear him preach. He lived in a day when the churches had no message for hungry souls. And he and Wesley had to get out on the hilltop and in the pasture.

But the burden. The burden. Of preaching tonight.

We're headed for a judgment. That's what I'm talking about. Every man you see.

Is headed for a meeting with God. At his judgment. Every man.

Every man you meet tomorrow. There's a red, red day. Marked in the rank of the blood of the Son of God.

In the leisure of almighty God books. That man gonna meet God. All preached men.
As dying men. Headed for the judgment. The Apostle Paul.
Wasn't used of God to write. But he did sure knew about. And he had joined.
As I want to urge you tonight. For you and me. To join the Apostle John.
As a sovereign God who knows the end from the beginning. Had John. Look out.
And see. That meeting place. That all men must come to.
And I think Paul saw it. And I want us to see it. I want to read you what John said.
And then I'm going to make my message on just one thought. I want us to see it again. John says in
Revelation 20 verse 11.
And I saw. I saw a great white throne. And I saw him that sat on it.
From whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And I was found no place to flee. That's a solemn
passage of scripture.
That's a solemn passage of scripture. And he said I saw the dead. I saw them.
I saw them. Now if old John's the only one that sees this won't help us. God had it put down here for us to
make our own.
I wish we could close the windows and lock the doors. And I had the power. First for myself.
And then for you. For us to stay here until. Until we could say.
I saw a great white throne. It sat. It's white because it's a throne of holiness.
It's God's throne. And men are headed. Just as sprayed as a croaking thigh.
To a meeting of almighty God around that throne. The dead. Small and great.
John said. Now I want us to say it. I saw the dead.
I saw them. I saw them. I believe God.
I warned the things not yet seen. Like many lies but God said it. It's out yonder.
The dead are going to stand before God. I saw them. I saw the books.
When they were opened. I saw them. I saw them.
And another book was opened which is the book of life. And the dead. God help us.
Were judged. What? The dead were judged. The dead were judged.
John said I saw it. I saw it. By faith I saw it.
I saw the dead. They were judged. They were judged.

According to a record. That is kept. By almighty God.

I was preaching up in the state of New York. And one night. I either referred to.

Or turned in the Bible. And quoted. Psalms 130.

Verses 4 and 5. There was a young deacon in the congregation. The pastor had been telling me about him. How his heart went out for him.

And I quoted by memory I read. These words. But there if verses 3. If thy Lord.

Shouldst. Him. Mark.

Iniquities. Suppose God. Did keep a pencil.

And mark down iniquities. Who shall stand? Who shall stand? That is law. And that is all.

It will be in this record. That men will be judged by. At the judgment bar of God.

Men are not going to be judged. With what they did with Jesus. At the judgment.

Men are going to be judged. By their deeds. Under law.

Sin is transgression of the law. This book is going to be a faithful record. Of a book keeping God.

If thy Lord. Shouldst mark iniquities. And I said that is the trouble.

He does mark them. H.G. Wells. Is that it H.G. or whatever his name is.

H.G. Wells. Who wrote that awful book. Now is in hell.

Said that when he was a boy. They talked to him about a God. Who watched what we do.

And marked it down. And he came to hate. With all the intensity of his soul.

Of God. That would keep a record. Of all he did.

That is what he does. That is what he does. This young deacon.

As I was reading that. Began to scream in the service. Came running down to the front.

Broke up my sermon. Praised God. Said oh my God.

My wife don't know about it. My pastor don't know about it. This church don't know about it.

But I see God keeping a record of it. And he stood there. And spilled his awful.

Teal of ungodly. Ungodly immorality. Enough to make the devil.

Sick at his stomach. If he had a heart. God's Holy Spirit.

Made alive. And quickened to that young man. This awful truth.

That God does mark down iniquities. And they are being saved in the books. And that men who come to stand before God.

Are going to be judged. By the record. That a record keeping.

Holy God. Makes concerning the iniquities of men. Oh my soul brother here.

I wish I could believe that. You don't believe that do you. You don't believe it.

You don't believe it. I talked to a man. That took me out to see him.

In another part of New York State. He said. He never listened to anybody.

He's a hard nut. Want you to go talk to him. And I went along.

And I talked to him the best I could. And the man said. Now I'll have you understand preacher.

That I've had a terrible past. But he said. I've forgotten it.

And that's the end of it. And I turned him to this scripture. I'm reading to you now.

And he said. Oh. He said.

That's just what the Bible says. But fool on the Bible. I don't believe it.

But not believing it. Won't change it. God does mark down.

A man's sins. Oh. And he keeps them.

In these books. And he says. The sea gave up the dead which were in it.

And the death and hell 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.

And this is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life. Was cast into the lake of fire.

My. That's an awful message. To carry an earthen vessel in.

For all said. To carry this treasure. In an earthen vessel.

We're utterly insufficient for it. I wish I could say something. That encouraged some child of God tonight.

To start looking at men. With eyes that know. They're headed for this judgment.

I believe we'd plead with them more. I believe we'd be more earnest with them. I believe we wouldn't look for a doctrine to hide behind.

Men are headed for the judgment. I think about some of those people down in Swanburg. Religious leaders.

I never saw folks fight. Truth like they did. And how.

Men blinded by the devil. Going about wreaking havoc. Against the church of God.

Sinning against the souls. Of eternity bound men and women. Oh my soul.

Those people are headed. For a meeting with God. I cry to God.

To see a group of people. Dealing with unsaved men and women as you meet them. They don't believe it.

But you believe it. They're headed for the judgment. They're going right smack dab toward a meeting with God.

They don't believe it. They don't believe it. But there isn't anything on earth as contagious as a man that believes something.

There isn't anything on earth as contagious as a child of God that really believes something. I wish for a brief moment now you'd sit. Stand in the shoes of the apostle John.

Let me call your attention to three things. First, he said he saw the dead stand before God. Before God.

A holy God. A God that the Bible says hath eyes so pure that he cannot look on sin, nor behold iniquity. A God that said the soul that sinneth it shall die.

A God that said the wages of sin is death. A God that said supported unto man wants to die and after that the judgment. A God that commands people be ye holy even as I am holy.

A God that won't settle for second best. It's all or nothing. A God whose holy day is a holiday.

Whose holy tithe is an excuse for sinful people. I think of sinful men today. They respect neither God nor man.

They rob God of his tithe. They rob God of his Lord's day. They rob God of the honor that's due him.

They deny God the worship that's due him. They deny God the praise that's due him. They're going to stand before God.

And they're going to stand before a living God. Not a book of rules. Not a machine.

Not a gadget. But a living God. A God that knows every move you make and marks it down.

And when I think on these things, my body tonight is utterly incapable of talking to you. No wonder George Whitefield, pray oh God, kill me and take me on. Can't stand the burden any longer.

No wonder the burden of preaching to the multitudes that Spurgeon had fit him into such terrible times of melancholy that he said all hope of his salvation would go away from him. I hear this generation of people wouldn't know God if they met him in the road. So I never doubt my salvation.

Of course not, you ain't got none. If you had any, the devil would attack you too. If you had something real, the thief would try to steal it, brother.

And as long as you're in this old body, if you had a treasure from God in this old body, you know what it was to doubt. If you close your eyes some nights when sleep doesn't come and hear the trump, the trump, the trump, the trump, the trump of the marching feet of eternity bound men and women that you and I have

witnessed too, look like it did no good. You and I have played with and did no good.

My, that's enough to kill anybody, this earthen vessel with that treasure. I wish you'd see again what John said he saw. He said, I saw the dead stand before God.

That's the doctrine of justification introduced for us, the big word. But there's just two ways a man can be justified, in his own sight or in God's sight. When a man got to stand before God, John said, I didn't see them stand before a judge or their fellow church members.

We'd make a lot of allowances, one for another, wouldn't we? John didn't say, I saw them stand before the interpretation of the way to be saved that they heard. Or their understanding of it. I saw the dead stand before God.

Oh, my soul, how can a man be just before a holy God? How can a man be brought to the place that God declares that wicked, sinful man to be not only as if he'd never sinned, but to be declared righteous and made righteous in the law of Jesus Christ. Man never faced a question as solemn as that. You'll never face in this life, you may not face it, but if you ever get honest with the need of your soul, you'll never face a question quite so solemn.

How can I stand before God? How can I stand? How can I stand and be just, not in my sight, but in the sight of God? John said he saw them cast into the lake of fire. Cast into the lake of fire. No man will go to hell willingly.

I saw them cast into the lake of fire. Cast. Isn't that awful language? Is that literal? You work it out for yourself.

Is this a picture? I saw whosoever was not found written in the book of life. I saw them cast into the lake of fire. That boy of yours, cast into the lake of fire.

That girl of yours, cast into the lake of fire. That fellow church member of yours, cast into the lake of fire. My soul, John said, I saw that.

There ain't no doubt about it. This is what God showed me. It's how Chanda's coming.

When men are going to be cast into the lake which burneth with fire and stone. That's solemn thinking, isn't it? Brother Cox, you live over there in Reedville. Ain't enough gospel preaching in Reedville to save a flea.

My heart goes out for you. Oh, my soul, go down there and work in that ungodly factory. Where people are going to be cast into the fire.

God said it. John said, I saw it. It's so.

It's so. My first pastorate. I think I told this before.

You've forgotten it. I went to an oil town. Started a church in the saloon.

We built a little church house up on a hill. And then we went down the heart of the wicked oil city. Bought an old skating rink.

Great big thing. Seated a couple thousand folks. We had our Sunday night services down there.

And the men would parade up and down the crowded streets on Sunday night. The oil workers come in to make poopy. And they'd get everybody to come in to him and preach as they could.

One night, a young man claimed the Lord saved him. And the next Sunday night, he brought his buddy to the service with him. They bumped together at the oil company camp.

And he got his buddy to come along. That night, I was preaching on something about the hell that awaits sinners. The two young men, one of them a week old, in the Lord.

And the other didn't know the Lord. They sat there and sat through the service. We stood and had an invitation.

After the invitation was closed, the young man who saved left you to go down and meet the preacher. The boy said, no, I don't want to meet him. He said, I wish you'd tarry and we'd pray for you.

He said, no, I don't know about praying for me. And he said, a week ago, I was in the same shape you're in. But he said, the Lord is precious to me now.

He said, I know he could be to you. I wish you'd let us pray for him. Now, let's go home.

Walking along, they walked about a mile, get back to their bunks. The young man who didn't know the Lord said, aye. He said, that hell bit.

He said, it ain't nothing to that. He said, that preacher's just trying to scare people. He said, if there's a God, I don't think there is.

But if there is one, he wouldn't send anybody to hell. The young man who'd just been saved said, I don't know. I know nothing about that.

All I know is, I got the Lord in here now. He said, I don't even know whether the Bible speaks much about hell or not. All I ever heard about is what I heard the preacher preach tonight.

But he said, I got the Lord in here. They walked on a little further. The young man got a little bored.

He said, ah, he said, that Bible, there's a lot of mistakes in that Bible. A lot of mistakes. He said, I just tore that Bible up.

And the young man that was saved said, maybe you can. He said, I don't know. I haven't been reading it but a week since the Lord saved me last Sunday night.

He said, all I know is, I got the Lord here. They walked on a little further. And the young man got a little bolder.

And he said, this God business, I don't believe there's a God. Said, nobody ever saw him. He said, you can't prove there's a God.

Well, that's right. There isn't a great truth that you've ever experienced that can be proved, can be experienced. He said, if there is a God, which I don't believe, but I just dare him.

He don't like what I'm saying. Do something about it. And the young man who was saved said, well, I sure wish he wouldn't talk that way.

I'd be afraid to talk that way. God might take you up. Tom Alford was the song leader at our little congregation.

And he was also the foreman of a gang of men that were working on a well. And the next morning at 10 o'clock Monday morning, this young unsaved man had been so bold. The night before, so many mistakes in the Bible.

No hell, didn't believe there was a God. If there was, he didn't like what he said. Just sort of dared him to do something about it.

Went home that night, slept like a log. But he said, man's in pretty hard shape and he can do that. Man's a fool if he can hear about hell and not be afraid to go in there.

Man's a big fool to dare a holy God to show his displeasure. And 10 o'clock the next morning, Tom Alford was superintending the work. They were doing something on a well.

If you've ever seen the oil wells, the rigs that stand way up. This young man didn't know the Lord. Up in the top of the rig, they were cleaning out the well, doing something.

And a miracle took place, an unexplainable thing happened. They had an investigation afterward, and with all their scientific ability, they gave the verdict that what happened could not be explained and they could find no reason for it. But all at once, they had an explosion in the bowels of that oil well.

And out of it came a great volcano of burning oil. Just one great flame of burning oil. And it came with all the force of an explosion and just enveloped that rigging.

And in far less time than it takes to tell, that young man, who perhaps the last thing he'd said about God the night before, before he went to sleep, that there is a God which I doubt. He don't like what I say. I dare him to do something about it.

There he was up in the top of the rigging. And as that awful volcano of liquid burning oil just gushed out of that well and surrounded and encompassed the rigging, it caught him. And the force of it was so great, he lost his hold.

And just like that, he came tumbling down to bust out his brains on a piece of pipe on the floor. Tom Alford said that as he fell, I heard him say, Oh God! And then his head hit the pipe and he went out to meet that God. He dared to do something about it the night before.

And every time I read this verse of scripture, I think about that young man. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. Beloved witness in the shadow of the judgment.

Witness with some of the fire scorching your soul that men are going to face. Let us stand. Amen.

Hear my humble cry. All others have a calling. Do not pass me by.

Savior, Savior. Hear my humble cry. All others have a calling.

Do not pass me by. I wonder if tomorrow you will have left this life and you passed into the hands of a holy God who has reserved a day of judgment in which he will punish men for their sin. I wonder how you will

leave this little building now.

And I wonder how it will fare with your soul. Our little group has had the opportunity of preaching over the radio at 8.30 today through the speaker. I felt the Holy Spirit indicted the message to hearts this morning.

We've had the opportunity to worship our Lord around this table and to hear the word of God expounded. And tonight to sit here and have the challenge and the charge again. This old world is full of people.

They don't believe in the judgment. Witness to them, dear ones. Plead with them.

Standing in the shadow of the judgment you know is coming because God said it. Snatching men as you can out of the very fires of hell. We're glad for the visitors who've been with us today.

Come again as the Lord leads you. If you're not willing to go away in the shape you came, we invite you to come forward to close. And we'd like to pray with you and instruct you, help you if we can.

We can't save you. You can't save yourself. God's the Savior.

We thank you. Our Father, it's been a good day. We thank you that you've given us another Lord's Day to meet together and to witness.

We bring this congregation, including this speaker, lay ourselves before you. My God, have mercy upon us. Burden us, break our hearts as dying men.

We shall plead with dying men to repent toward God and flee toward the Lord Jesus Christ. All that's been done today, Lord, that's of us. Please forgive it.

And what's been done that you can get glory out of, thank God for it. We have to give an account to you for today. And we'll wait that time when your eyes shall scan our labors, speak to hearts as they leave the tabernacle tonight for Christ's sake.

Amen.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/20/SID20091.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/rolfe-barnard/a-god-that-keeps-records/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net