

God's Great Demander

by Rolfe Barnard

The sermon emphasizes the importance of acknowledging Jesus as Lord and submitting to God's rule in order to be saved.

Duration: 47:28

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, John 20:31, Acts 16:31, Romans 10:8-9

Topics: "God"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the radical nature of following Jesus. He references Mark chapter 9, where Jesus speaks about the need to cut off body parts that cause sin. The preacher emphasizes that it is better to enter heaven with one hand than to have both hands and go to hell. He also mentions Matthew chapter 10, where Jesus states that he came to bring a sword and not peace. The preacher highlights the importance of actively witnessing and proclaiming the demands of Jesus Christ, never allowing the town to have a moment of peace while ignoring his claims. The sermon concludes with a reminder that following Jesus requires complete surrender and repentance.

Transcript

Last evening, we presented to you some of the stupendous claims that the Lord Jesus Christ made for himself when he was here in the days of his flesh. Up until now, according to all the evidence that's been, he has never abrogated any of his claims. He still makes those claims, for he's alive.

And it's set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Last evening, we suggested that what they call Christianity today just won't work. It's all another.

He'll be your Lord of all, or he'll not be your Lord at all. He's either God Almighty manifest in the flesh, a man in glory, or he's the world's greatest blasphemer. And the insipid stuff that they call fallen in the day will just land people in hell.

That's right. Tonight, I wish to come and present for your hearing Christ, God's great demander. Last night, he made his claim.

And the Father rendered his verdict. This, one who so claims, is the Son of my Lord. Hear, ye hear! We have a generation of people who claim to be Christians now, who do not listen to the voice through this book of the Son of God that makes Christ their Lord.

They don't know God. Don't dare to call yourself Christian if a day can go by in your life without coming to his book, or his word, that you may not understand it, but that you may obey it throughout that day. I know what I'm speaking about now.

Don't you dare claim to be a Christian, a product of God's grace. You can go a day without coming to sit at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ and let him speak to you and give you your marching orders for that day. He's the commander-in-chief, and soldiers don't fight wars except with their commander.

He gives the orders. He gives the command, and the soldiers obey it. Tonight, God's great demander is the man.

So radical, he can't obey it without the flesh dying, and he brands himself as the world's greatest fool. Or as Almighty God manifests in the flesh with his tremendous demand. In Matthew 4, verse 17, the Lord Jesus, when he was there, began his ministry by making a demand in view of having made an announcement, in view of the announcement he made to start off his ministry as God's prophet, to bring to me all that God would have us hear.

For Jesus Christ, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians, chapter 1, at verse 30, Christ has appeared of the Father, been made unto us wisdom, sanctification, righteousness, and redemption, all in heaven. All the wisdom that God has for men is in Christ. All the holiness that God has for men has been united to Christ, has been made unto us.

All the righteousness that God will accept is in his Son, all the redemption. It's Christ to him. God has nothing for you unless you can become vitally united to him, wherein is all wisdom, all holiness, all righteousness, and all redemption.

God put all his age in one basket. You miss Christ. You stand afar off like that for two nines.

I believe Jesus died for sinners, and I put my faith in him. Will the hellfire pick up dust in the devil's face? Well, that's standing afar off, but you've got to get in touch with him. Him, for he that hath the Son hath life.

You cannot share in the benefits of his blood apart from being united to him by faith, who gave his blood. That's the battle cry of this hour. Church people are honest, and they're sincere, and they're not hypocrites.

They listen to modern-day preaching, and they're going to hell trusting in some facts, but never being joined to a person. They believe Jesus died for them, that won't save them. For the Savior is Christ who died for us.

You can't have the merits of his blood unless you have him. He came now with this public minister, this one who's been made of God. We didn't elect him.

God did. God didn't make him wisdom, sanctification. I mean, we didn't.

Righteousness was empty. God did. God did.

Him. Him. This one came.

Great is the mystery of godliness, says Paul. God was manifest in the flesh. He came, says God, and dwelt among us in a world that didn't even know he was in town, in the midst of his own nation, who

wouldn't submit to him.

In his own household, his own brothers and sisters, hardly no one died and went to him. Had to. That's right.

But John said he came and dwelt among us. And praise the Lord, John said, we beheld his glory. That's how you get saved.

Not by your decision, but by his blessed revelation of himself to you. You cannot seek glory in the glory man hanging on a bloody cross with eyes of faith. You know nothing about salvation.

Behold his glory. This one came and began his public ministry as God's prophet. Because if you will not listen to him teach, you can't have him as your priest to die for you.

You can't cut Jesus Christ up and take part of him and reject the other. And he began his public ministry with this tremendous demand. From that time, verse 17, Jesus began to preach.

And to preach what? Repent. What? For the kingdom of heaven is at hand. I wouldn't want to disturb you, but I have to make this statement.

The book of Matthew's address has peculiar colorings of Jews. They would not even use the word for God. There is no Hebrew word for it.

So instead of the kingdom of God, you have the expression the kingdom of heaven. But they mean the same thing. The rule of God.

The rule of heaven or the rule of God. And the Lord Jesus Christ came. The first message he brought.

God has invaded again the world he created and the devil thinks he stole it. I'm here, says Jesus Christ. The word kingdom in its root meaning in the word of gospel's Old Testament.

And you, means are you having rules. Rules. You aren't in the kingdom of God.

That's the devouring into it. But if you want to be saved, that means you walk to the door under the rule of God's child. Salvation means.

That means that the praise God. When you would be so delighted if you could get rid of your master S-I-N-10. And come under the R-U-L-E rule of bloodstained Jesus.

Salvation is nothing more or less than a change of masters. Where once sin reigned. Now Jesus Christ is enthroned in our hearts.

He makes a tremendous announcement. Grandest announcement that's ever made here on this earth. When the son of God landed on both feet and went preaching.

I'm here. God's invaded this whole world. Rescue the perishing.

Care for the dying. The kingdom. The rule of heaven.

He's here. He's here. You know all the rules.

One day you shut up this world. S-H-A-L-L. Carol.

Hell cannot stop it because. The rule. The kingdom of God's dear son.

One day Christ is going to surrender his rule to the father. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians chapter 15. But he's not going to surrender his rule.

Until A-L-L. All authority. And all has been subdued.

And until the last enemy. Has been put out of business. And the last enemy is that awful thing called B-E-H-D-H-F.

I'm quoting from 15th to 1 Corinthians as you know. And when all things have been brought into subjection under the rule. Of this one in my blundering way I've tried to present to you night after night.

And everything that wiggles has been brought under subjection to him. He's going to turn his rule. And he will have the job the father gave him to do.

When he says I came not to do my will. But the will of him that sent me. Unless God.

He's going to keep on doing the will of God that sent him. Until it's done. You know that's wonderful.

Brother Ed. Just we'll be honest. Preachers are about to pass you know.

We're full of pride. Mistakes get discouraged. You can't lose.

Brother this is God's work. He's not going to stop. His son's not going to stop.

Until this world has been brought under the rule of him. You can't lose. Years ago I had a great evangelist over a meeting for me.

He's a member of the staff of the Texas Baptist Convention. One of the evangelists later went to the door. Orally and religiously.

I saw him at Fort Worth, Texas at the Southern Baptist Convention before he'd gone clear off. But he'd gone over to Egypt and got all those signs off of the pyramid. Now he's going all over the world.

It's the biggest crowd anybody living there. Predicting when Jesus would come back and had all the dates off of the pyramid. And had all the stuff.

Found out there wasn't any hills. All Anglo-Saxon people of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. And we had lunch together there.

And the pangolino cafeteria I remember in Fort Worth, Texas. Our wife and the two of us. And he said, Ross, you're a fool.

He said, you'll never make a dime or get a crowd preaching the gospel. He said, there isn't an auditorium in the world that can hold my crowd. He said, I'd come to a city just one night to take a hundred dollars out of town for every dollar you'll take in a month, Kenzo.

I said, yeah, Joe, that's right. If you preach him something, it's bound to go down the drain. And I'm preaching about him who was given a commandment.

Who was given a job to do. To subdue this world to God. Brother, whether anybody believes it or not, I do.

And makes me just happy if I had good things. This old world is going to have it. Every enemy is going to be conquered, amen.

But our Savior, you can just get joined up to him, brother. He'd do the ride to the river with you. Yes, sir.

Yes, sir. I'm here. Green Coast! What for? For Afghanistan.

He said, who's he? That's exactly what the Lord Jesus Christ said. Came into the world and he spoke into existence. Said it rebelled against his rules.

Well, that's what they did in the Garden of Eden. And he said, repent, change your mind, agree with God, and condemn yourself. Receive God's counsel against yourself.

Step up to the moaners' beach and take your place as a guilty rebellious sinner obnoxious to the fires of hell. What are you going to do all that for? God cares. The kingdom, the rule of God is just.

It's manifest in God. It's manifested in secret. What next? The knowledge of the Lord.

Yes, take K-double-L care. Cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Now, it's small.

But thank God, even though it's full of manifestation, yet waits. In my theology, I believe that's what the Scriptures teach. It wouldn't fall out of your temple anyway.

What next? Acknowledge, but, that Jesus is Lord. Wait until he comes in power and forces this thing. In the meantime, bless God, he still rules.

God's rule is still there. God's rule is working. Now, men may be born of the spirit into the rule of King Jesus.

The spirit now, not in its fullness, taste of it. Thank God, men may enter into the sphere of the rule of King Jesus right now. Into the realm of his blessings.

Thank God, it's possible that a man may taste the powers of the age to come. Right now. And in a world where it's popular to be a church member, but awfully unpopular to be a Christian, thank God a man still can be born of the spirit, be given the life of the spirit, rejoice in the rule of King Jesus, be glad he's on the throne, enjoy his blessed rule, his joke is easy, and have a little bit of heaven on the road to heaven.

Praise God, that's what salvation is. Does a person enter in to the experience ahead of time of being brought under the sweet rule of God the Lord, that the Lord Jesus Christ, what demand, if any, does God in Christ bring to men now? If they may enter now, ahead of time, the sweetness, the joy of receiving, the life of the spirit. How does one obtain the righteousness, the rule of Christ the Christ, obtain the life of the future age, when every enemy, having been destroyed, this old earth, burned up, and I get through, I turn over to 2 Peter 3, and I read, nevertheless, nevertheless, care what happens, nevertheless, we look unto his promise, a new heaven, and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness, it's coming, it's coming, all hell can't stop it.

Amen. How can you get in on that ahead of time? That's what it means to be a Christian. There are three verses in scripture, all of them saying the same thing, Romans 10 and 9. I would ask if you wouldn't mind, turn to it, we've quoted it a hundred times, but it never goes over.

Romans 10 and 9, talk something about how a person may come under the rule of Christ now, willingly, gladly, God won't force you now, won't make you, he will later, but not now. How can that be? Romans 10 and verse 8 says, Romans 10 verse 8, but what says it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that is the word of faith, and that's the word we preach. Well, what do you preach for? This is the word of faith, this is how to get vitally united with Christ, this is how to get in touch with Christ, this is how to receive his life, and his spirit, and his room, and his joy, this salvation, that if thou shalt, this is what we preach, this is the word of faith, received by faith, by faith, this is what it is, this is what we preach, that if thou shalt stand upon your high way, in a day when it's not popular, and open your mouth, and say, Jesus is Lord, if thou shalt confess, not testify, your testimony may be false, or may be real, but confession's always real.

The groceryman, they'll put him in jail, if you put long labels on your goods, won't they? You got a can of beans on there, inside, and you got pickles written on it, you won't get by that, will you? But you got a sign on there, and that sign says, I'm beans, I'm beans, I'm beans! The way we confess, with our mouths, Jesus is Lord, is blessed God, we know the truth! He is our Lord, that's it now. I mean, that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth, with thy mouth, with that foreign orchard, that most people use to slander, all of this, that awful thing called your tongue with your mouth, oh, in this day, when men's mouths slither with filth, when a man, by his conversation before others, confesses to say, I'm Christian, that all the thing about him is, Jesus is Lord, he's my Lord, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt receive. For with the mouth of confession, not testimony, that might not tell the truth, but with the mouth of confession, is made unto salvation, unto righteousness.

With the heart, man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation. Notice the next verse. Father Scripture says, whosoever believeth in him shall not be ashamed.

That's not two ways to be saved. He said, get up on your hind legs and the way you live, everything you do for me, that's a confession. And the world says, that man is a Christ disciplined man.

He's got a master and it's not sin, it's Jesus Christ. It doesn't say, walk down out of that, that's not what it says, oh no, that's where you live, but that's where you confess Christ every night. Isn't that right? Well, whosoever, says what? Well, the Scripture says, whosoever believeth on him shall not be confused.

It's the Greek on it. That's not a different way to be saved, look at verse 13. Verse 9 says, stand up in an evil world where the liars, the confessors, bear the marks of the Lordship of Christ.

Verse what? Verse 11 says, whosoever believeth on him, not believe one time, go to hell defending that little profession, but believe it, keep strong belief. Huh? And believe always in the Scripture, don't mean anything on God's earth except to obey. You don't believe anything in the Bible except what you put in practice.

I don't. And then verse 13, not a different way of salvation, whosoever shall call upon the name, the name's authority, and he's the one God's authority, he's been given all of it. Whosoever shall call, and the Greek says, just keep on calling, just keep on calling.

Why, if it's one great call from the piteous sinner in the place of the beggar, reaching out to him who sits on the throne, he's the raven child, call! Why, hell's going to be full of that to some fool, fool evangelist wanting to get your dollar and count numbers, and he came, and he got you to come down and call upon your name, and call it, who says call upon him knows every word. Then I just repeat after me this prayer,

Lord, they must give me a sinner and save me for Jesus' sake. And they repeat, okay, you're saved, they want to save me.

No more than he was. No, sir, whosoever shall call upon the name, the authority, the authority to speak life to dead sinners, sir, if you call on that name, you'll be saved. Three things mean the same thing, this, whosoever, believe it, believe it, whosoever shall three ways get saved, that means the same thing.

Acts 16, very, very familiar. We're asking the question, trying to answer from the word of God, how may I receive the right son through the spirit? How shall I be what we call B-S-A-B-E-V-C, the head attorney? And in the 31st verse of the 16th chapter of Acts, but I take a minute here because this is one of the most butchered verses of scripture under the dark shining sun. You better listen to me if you ever get acting like a Christian around here and the men go two by twos and the women two by twos and the young people two by twos and you know what it is going to homes and witnessing and instruct and exhort and pray and keep this town on its toes are ignored and is the man's rebelled against.

God, heck with this church. You won't go in there and say, now, all you got to do, Senator, is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. That doesn't work.

I've heard them say, well, all you got to do, Senator, is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. That's how it's perceived. But let's see what kind of a Senator this was.

There's a fellow that has been awakened. He is trembling. He is scared as his wits.

He's under the deepest conviction. He's in the state of repentance and he's screaming out, what must I do to be saved? Well, of course, anybody that's in that state, I praise God, just tell him to lean, lean all your weight on whom? Jesus Christ, your personal Savior, on the Lord. Lean all your weight, if you really mean it.

If you feel like you're sinking, this old boy, you say, what must I do for God to scream on Lord Jesus Christ, have me saved? Nobody's ever told to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, unless he's in the same state. There's nobody. When has grace ever whittled you down to where you're a beggar and a pauper, you're a claimant of mercy instead of a demander of justice, up on the mercy of the court and says, what must I do? Is there anything, oh God, I just have to go on to hell and then hope for me? Is there anything I can do? Yeah, boy.

And then one of the scriptures, and that's the 20th chapter of the book of John. And all of these mean the same thing, to be saved in the 20th chapter of John and the 31st verse, John 20, 31. These believe that Jesus is a person of faith.

Now, I won't break you of that for I have to tell you, it's unscriptural, but read what it says. That you might believe that Jesus is, that Jesus is God's anointed one. And who is this? That you might believe that he's what? The Son of God.

And that'll fix it all up. and that believing, that believing, that believing, you've got to go on to hell, trust in that time you made a profession, that you can't save, it takes Christ to save. Believing is through his name.

There ain't no life anywhere else. The fellow who believes, keeps on believing, brother. Listen, in the security of the believer, the question is, who's the believer? The fellow who said one time he accepted Jesus, or the fellow who's obeying him now? Who is a believer? The fellow who once was a believer, or

the one that's a believer now? Brother, if all your weight's leaned on Christ right now, if you're walking in all the life you know and obeying him best you know how, now! If you're rejoicing that he sits on the throne, now! If you're a faithful listener to his voice, now! If you're a humble follower of him, now! Oh, that's security.

Not this stuff about the Lord saving us 30 years ago when I'm a Christian. No, no. None of that stuff.

None of that stuff. Believing that faith that doesn't keep on, he that endures to the end, the same shall be said. Now I come tonight best I know how, somewhat seriously, to ask this.

These scriptures, do they simply mean to take his name on our lips? Do they mean a verbal confession? Do they mean for Father to have a creed? Do they mean to say, well, Jesus is my Lord? No, sir. The answer is you've got to have more than a creed or a say-so. God's Son demands surrender.

Repent now. The only time you've got now, you haven't got tomorrow, you've just got now. You must listen to him who tomorrow may serve as your judge to send you to hell.

And the one who either saves or damns confronts you right now as I preach to you. And he demands that you turn from yourself and utter surrender to him. Will you have his rule in your life, young man, right now? Will you go out of this building, marred as a God-conquered person, not your own, with the will of him, the sweetest thing in your life, in your constant endeavor? Will you receive his rule, young lady, or the church members would break with you? His.

Will you take it? Your name on a church roll. Discipline. Two religious roads to hell.

One's a broad road. You get in it. In that broad road has made a profession of faith, gone to parts called Jesus is Lord.

Read the 7th chapter of Matthew. Leads to destruction. I've been warning green church business, these folks that intended to come tonight but something interfered, and all this junk leads to hell as surely as I'm preaching.

Like that, that's for the church people. There's one of them we've preached in your name. And some of them said we've cast out demons in your name.

And some of them said we've done many wrong things. You said I don't know you. You get in it by a S-P-R-A-I-T, straight gate, and it leads to life everlasting.

Church members are green foals. One leads to hell. And there ain't just, I'm not gonna turn to it.

Take too much time. I got time. I got quicker pursuits.

And then it came to pass that as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, that good author doth this. And Jesus said unto him, Pastors have hoes, and virgins there have nests. But the Son of Man hath not wherewith lay his head at the last of that church center.

And he said to another, Father, that he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my foes. And Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury the dead, and you go round and preach the kingdom of God. And another said, Let me first go and tell Mama and Papa goodbye.

And Jesus said unto him, O man, having put his hand to the plow and looking back, it's fit for the ruin of God. It'll be a resolute surrender if you ever get saved. In the second place, it'll be a radical surrender.

In Matthew 11 and 12, my Lord Jesus Christ says, And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth for you. You'll never be saved. You begin to suffer for until John sent that time the kingdom of God and the greatest preacher of every man.

In Luke chapter 13, verse 24, my Lord says, S-T-R-I-V-E to enter in. Remember when you got saved, you switched to doing nothing but one God's will and took the preacher's hand and wept a little tear and you're going to hell depending on that. Jesus said, Scribes, this is a terrible sin.

Scribes, there ain't an S-T-R-E-I-T straight game. For many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in and shall not be able. If this heart get in, in Mark chapter 9, the Lord said, if your eye can't get plucked out, He said, if your foot causes you to stumble, He said, if your hand gets you in trouble, cut it off! What's it mean by it? He sent lament, but all this stuff they call Christianity is leading you to hell.

Oh, I'd better have one eye and go to heaven and have two and go to hell. Matthew chapter 10, the Lord said, take not I am come to send peace on earth. I didn't come to send peace.

I came to start at any town that would have I taken seriously, and you're either going to take them seriously in time, or you're inconvenient. He said, not only resolute surrenders, not only resolute surrenders. I turned, asked to turn with me to Matthew chapter 19 and see if they cost you every dime you got.

The rich young ruler came and he wanted to go to heaven when he died and the Lord told him to sell all he had and then exactly what he meant, he said, for his dollar was his God. And the young man had great possessions and it made him feel awful bad when he had turned his back on Christ and went away sorrowful. And the Lord on Sunday night, 10 years in hell, got saved, me at the point of my rebellion.

Maybe that business of yours won't send you right straight to hell. It takes the place of the Lord. It may cost you 10.

Look at it. He that loveth God is worthy of it. And me is not worthy of it.

Your children won't send you to hell. First say this, folks. They mean more to you than God.

They can't get out to take care of their children. Verse 38. He that taketh not his cross the man told me today 97% says that's a guy and the next day it's that guy again.

You don't live a life with death to spare. And then my time has long since passed. Luke 19 89 the Lord says also I say unto you whosoever shall confess me before men confess not.

Confess me before men him shall the son of man also confess before the angels of God. And then in Mark 8 38 whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me being church members

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