

Let Him Be Accursed

by Rolfe Barnard

The sermon emphasizes the importance of loving the Lord Jesus Christ with a love that takes delight in beholding him at work, and the consequences of not doing so.

Duration: 1:05:25

Scripture: John 14:21, John 14:23, 1 Corinthians 13:12, 2 Corinthians 4:7, 1 Timothy 4:16, 2 Timothy 4:5, Hebrews 10:25

Topics: "Gods Grace", "Evangelism"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher expresses his nervousness and shares his desire for the congregation to listen attentively. He emphasizes the importance of behaving and mentions that a good spanking is necessary at times. The preacher encourages the congregation to think like Jesus and to feel the love of Jesus, who sacrificed himself on the cross. He also discusses the role of evangelism and the need to share the message of salvation with others. The preacher expresses concern about the salvation of those who trust in their own actions rather than in God's grace.

Transcript

I'm going to make it outright, if you people have contacts with lost people, if you don't, you ought to have. And we're going to bring different types of message. My work is to do the work of an evangelist, and I've done the best I could, with some nights in terrible pain.

That's not your fault. I've done about the best I could do to preach this law and the gospel, to insist on how God saves people, what it means to be saved. And I certainly hope that when I see the members of the congregation at the judgment, I find out that you, Lord my Lord, have been pretty indigenious, you've been pretty pious, and I've been battling for your souls.

I do not see how the average Baptist could possibly be saved because they trust in something they've done. And we just keep on, as far as I can see, our language betrays us, and our attitude towards the word. I watch people very carefully as I preach.

I cannot look inside. No one can tell tears from weeping until harvest time. But you can tell the difference between a tear and weeping.

Because the weeping, God brings fruit at the proper time, and the tear doesn't. A Christian, of course, is a fruit-bearer, and God knows, but I don't. But tonight I've come, I hope I'll be able to make it.

I covet your very earnest attention. I am extremely nervous and in extreme pain just now, and I think I have a right that for one time you make your kids behave. Give me a listen, will you? A good spanking is the proper part of the anatomy.

About a dozen spankings one night would take care of that problem. You never have to do it again. I'm very much interested myself and for all people who profess to be saved, and that's the most of the people we get to preach to now, for the lines are very sharply divided, and every day our church people get more isolated from the people of the world.

Every day we go out, poke a little more around us and keep clean with Jesus. And so I just open the word and speak to people. Nearly everybody I get to preach to these days is a member of some kind of a congregation calling itself a church.

And I'm very anxious for a very careful hearing. As for the last time, I open the scriptures to the congregation as such, and largely my audience. We've had visitors.

I trust all of the visitors from other churches. One night a tender was saved. I do not believe that anybody is saved who isn't a constant hearer of the word of God.

Do you? Isn't that what faith is? Essentially the essence of faith is hearing the word of God. That's what it is. A Christian never loses an opportunity to hear the word of God.

You can just put that down. The essence of saving faith is the hearing of the word of God. That's what makes it up.

And in the 16th chapter of 1 Corinthians, at verse 22, there is a verse that I am tremendously interested in. It is a tremendous statement, and I'm going to do my dead-level best to open up the meaning of it. God will let me.

And I want you to do your dead-level best to hear. In 1 Corinthians 16, verse 22, I want you to get it before you. If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema, maranatha.

The word anathema means the curse. The word maranatha means the Lord is coming. Dear Blessed Pastor, I've had some fellowship in studying the doctrine of the last things.

We differ very much on it. But since neither one of us knows much about it, neither do you, we'd be brethren. Is that all right? I like to preach the fundamentalist, something they don't believe.

They don't see the reaction. If we fundamentalists are in terrible danger of making out like we are God. And I just don't believe you fundamentalists have got all the truth.

Do you think you have? I know I have. But our attitude toward truth is somewhat indicative of whether we know the author of the Bible. And we remember that since all of us see as in a glass darkly an only part, especially this good for those who try to contend for the faith, we need to remember that since we do not know too much, we wouldn't shoot at a fellow that doesn't know much either, would we? We wouldn't look down on him.

But little do you know that so, the Holy Spirit showed it to you, so it's not really yours to forgive him. But the pastor and I do agree the Lord is coming back. We differ as to the time.

But when he comes back, any man who does not love the Lord Jesus Christ will be accursed by him when he comes back. All right? If any man loved not the Lord Jesus Christ, this then is the one big thing I'm interested in. Does Ralph Barnes love the Lord Jesus Christ? I ain't talking about yesterday, sister.

I'm talking about right now. Huh? Right now. I ain't fixing to go to hell depending on something that happened yesterday.

I don't know about right now. Huh? I believe with all of my heart that every human being that tells me he's saved because of what happened back yonder, I believe you've missed Christ. I do.

I don't make it so. But I preach at you because I believe it with all my heart. I don't find anything like that in an incestuous.

I hear them saying, I've been born again. But the only way you can know you've been born again is by the fruit. And the fruit of the new birth is a lifelong repentance toward God and reliance on Jesus Christ.

Not a one act, but a lifelong. No human being can put his finger on the time of his birth because the baby has to be born before his Christ. And the cry of the baby is the proof that life is already there.

This generation is going to be full of people claiming they've been born again. Talking about that as an experience they've had. And they're going to go right straight to hell because the new birth is the work of God.

The Spirit does that. And the only evidence you've got that you were born of the Spirit is that today your life is characterized by two things. A turning from to God and a reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Not yesterday, but today. Today. Today.

You believe that? That's so. That's so. How can you tell whether a tree is a peach tree or an apple tree? By the fruit, can't you? And the new birth is known only by fruit.

And if I've been born of the Spirit he lives a daily life of repentance and a daily life of coming to the Lord Jesus Christ and utter reliance and obedience to him. That's your job. Ralph Barnes was gravely interested in this text.

If any man loved not the Lord Jesus Christ it doesn't say if any man's not a Baptist or if any man hasn't made a decision or if any man hasn't quit drinking or if any man hasn't quit whipping his wife or if any man hasn't turned over a new leaf or if any man isn't living a little better life than he used to but says if any man loved not the Lord Jesus Christ what's going to happen to him? When the Lord returns he's going to be accursed. He's going to be damned by the Lord Jesus Christ. In a moment I'm going to do my dead level best to ask three questions and answer them.

I hope you're interested. But before I ask the questions I want us to think the awful, awful, awful, awful tragedy and sin of living in God's world not being head over heels in love with the one whom God says this is the son of my Lord. God loves Jesus and you are terrible, terrible if you don't.

You ought to be accursed if you do not come to agree with God about your son. The most terrible sin that any human being could possibly be guilty of is not to agree with God about the loveliness and the beauty and the glory of his own love of God. I'm telling you the truth.

I could get a fight started at the parchment if I got me a club and went to beating on Joanna. She's the cock of the walk around. If you run the whole house and call on the horse, oh, get after me if I didn't love the little old rascal.

Now I'm telling you, ladies and gentlemen, almighty God ain't going to take it lightly if you mistreat the son of his love of you. That's the God's truth. Not to love him.

He's rebellion against the highest throne in the universe. Because he died on the cross, he's sitting on the throne right now. He's been given authority over everything that wiggles on this earth.

That's God's reward to his son. For his son has him willingly laid down his life for his son. And God spoke Jesus Christ to Jesus Christ, perfect life and death on the cross and glorious resurrection and exaltation.

He spoke his last word. If you do not honor the Lord Jesus Christ, you insult God and you wound him in the deepest way that a sinner can wound God. You hurt my only child and you hurt me.

Surely if you mistreat God's only begotten son, you are a devil. We can't set aside this word. If so, if any man loves not the Lord Jesus Christ, when Jesus comes, he'll damn him.

He'll accuse him. The essence of all that I am saying is arrogance. The setting up of my head on the throne instead of Jesus Christ.

There is no New Testament salvation apart from utter submission to the Lord Jesus Christ. The essence of salvation, the thing that salvation is, is the collapse of the room of your flesh and the enthronement of Jesus Christ as your Lord. I tell you, this generation of church members that say, I don't think so and so, and this is how I look at it, they're going to hell.

Ain't none of your business. You must be under utter submission to Jesus Christ. He'll do the thinking.

He does the directing. You do the obeying or you're going to hell. And I look in the face and tell you, if you're not guilty, if you live in a generation of church people that don't pay one bit of attention to what God tells them in this book, they decide how they'll live.

They decide what's right and wrong. They decide how much money they'll put in the pot. They decide this and that and the other.

If there's only one person that's been given the right to decide everything for you and me, and this will keep you busy, honey, bring your decisions to Christ and let him decide! And that's the Lord Jesus Christ. That's right. That's right.

Yet we still go around talking about, wouldn't you put Jesus as your Savior? No, no. No, no. What we've had is a belief in him and some truth about him that still leaves us in control of our lives.

And the way we've been doing it is to make certain our church people, Brother Pastor, go to hell. Every once in a while, we give the dear unsaved church people an opportunity to re-dedicate themselves. And that makes them feel a little better on their old behavior.

And all this dedication, that's what salvation is. I'm not talking about the deeper life. There ain't no such animal.

I'm not talking about the so-called victorious life. There ain't no such animal. I'm just talking about coming to Christ and turning yourself over to him, lock, stock and barrel with everything you know.

And then the next day, he'll put his finger on something else and you'll have to do it all over again. And the next day, you'll have to do it all over again. Not that you get more sinful, but your conscience gets better and the Lord Jesus can talk to you better and he'll say, that's got to go, and that's got to go, and that's got to go, and that's Christian life.

Everything's got to sit, first of all, under his blessed roof. My friends, the road to hell is more than skid row. It may be the path that makes you a church member without yourself.

You, your own ego, yourself, without it being the throne. Jesus Christ in throne. But I warn you, you can't have two lords at the same time.

Self known to both. Jesus Christ will not come in. That's what it means, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself.

Got to be done, or you'll never get a fitting distance of Jesus Christ. Take up the cross, what does that mean? Die. B-I-E, die.

I talked to a young man one time, he's a farmer, and I said, tonight I'm expecting you to walk that aisle and stand up and publicly confess what you deep down in your heart believe. Say, Jesus Christ is my Lord! He said, Preacher, if I did that, it'd kill me! I said, that's what I know. Poor little kid, poor little kid, you'll never own another dime.

Everything you've got, he'll own. You just restore it up. Huh? What a fool! How much does it cost a man to get saved? It's a cost to yourself.

No, you won't be in command anymore. Amen? He's in command. The awful crime of not loving the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to ask three questions about this text. First, what kind of love are you talking about that I must have? Else I'll call the Lord Jesus. Else I'll be damned by him when he returns.

This world doesn't believe it. Church people don't believe it. We pre-millionaires don't believe it.

It's just a doctrine with us. It has got in our hearts. But this world hasn't seen the last of the Lord Jesus.

He's coming back. And when he comes back, one thing he's going to do, he's going to damn every human being who's ever lived in this earth who didn't love him. First, what kind of love must I have for the Lord Jesus Christ? Or else be accursed.

Second, why is this love absolutely essential? Third, how may I know I have this love? I'm interested in these questions. If I don't come up with the right answer, God bless your heart, I hope you do. If I miss it, that won't help you, will it? I'm interested in the kind of love the New Testament teaches Rothbard must have for the Lord Jesus Christ, else he'll damn infinity.

I'm interested in why that must be so. I'm interested in whether or not there's any way on earth this preacher can find out whether I do love the Lord Jesus Christ with the love he demands. Else he'll curse me.

And I hasten to say that the testimony of the New Testament is this, that I must love Jesus Christ on the job with my supremest love. I must find my chief delight, my chief joy, my chief satisfaction in beholding him at work. Now a lot of people talk about how they love Jesus, but they don't like his work.

But you can't separate him from his work. He's on the job right now. And if I don't love him as he's working at the job the Father sent him to do, I don't love him with the love I'm looking for.

The Father said, this is the son of my love in whom I'm well pleased. I must come to the faith where I'm well pleased, thank you. With the Lord Jesus Christ as he works.

You know, all of us have things in which we get delight and joy. You can, you like to think about your home. You get a lot of joy and delight, don't you? A lot of things like that.

You like to think about your family, your children. Surely in these days of conflict, you like to contemplate your country, America. And there are friends in whom you take great delight.

Isn't that right? We couldn't live, we'd go crazy, if there weren't things in which we get joy, out of which we get joy. Isn't that right? But the thing that must give us our chief joy, unless it's figure, unless your love for Jesus is more intimate and vital than your love for your children, or your mother, or your father, or anything else, you don't love him. With the love you must have, else you're going to be damned.

If a man loves his father and mother more than Christ, this ain't serious. My Lord Jesus Christ is a supreme dictator. He demands absolutely that he be the chief joy and delight and satisfaction and complacency about.

That's a gotcha. I'm telling you folks, you may think I'm hard, but I love your souls. I don't want what you've got.

And I bleed about this, but this little stuff that people call salvation today ain't going to get their job done unless a man finds his chief joy. I mean his chief joy, bigger than everything else put together in the Lord Jesus Christ on his job. We'll look at him on his job in a minute.

I'm looking in the face and telling you, do not have the love that God requires and you're going to go to hell. This one's challenging me. This is right near the street.

In the Bible, God's love is used in two ways. I'll have to use big words. There's the love of benevolence.

Bene means good, and benevolence means will. We have a love of goodwill towards people. There's that old drunkard.

You say, I pity him. I love him. I do him good.

I wish I could help him. But you do not take delight in this, do you? You do not find your joy in looking at him or thinking about him, do you? You love him in the same sense that God loves all men, in that he pities them and would do them good. But God does not take delight in them.

He pities them, but he doesn't have any joy. And then there's the love of compassion. You like to think about somebody, don't you? I think about my dear wife.

I've been separated from her ten days. The one I've been with her, we've been married thirty-six years, and I get out a picture of her wife every day of the week. Awful.

And I know every feature. I like to see her face as I'm looking at her. I take the grave.

Just let me think about her. Huh? Ladies and gentlemen, this poor little pitiful Jesus, the brethren and the priests, he ought to pity them. He ought to try to help them out.

Join the church and start working for them. But the Christ of the Bible doesn't need your pity. Thank God he's on the cross.

I'm not asking you to take pity on him. I'm telling you, folks, he don't need your pity. He'll have your love for him as he's working at the job where he's going to have me.

You see, if I can illustrate what we mean by being on the job, the best I can find out, I've inquired a little bit, John Fitzgerald Kennedy is a delightful young man. He's brilliant. You look at his eyes.

He's smart. He works hard. He's a mortal millionaire.

He doesn't have to work for you. He's wearing his life out in his job. I think that if I could get acquainted with him, I'd like John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

And I'd say, Well, I like him, but I don't like him as President of the United States. But you have to. That's what he is.

Isn't it? Huh? And you just can't like John Fitzgerald Kennedy now and say, I like him as a man, but I don't like him working at his job. Well, he's working at his job. You can't separate him from his job.

I think I could like him in a key to appreciate him. He seems to be a hale fellow, well-met, got a lot of humor, likes to keep the world friendly and every time he wiggles his toe, gets a big kick out of him. Brilliant, smart.

Smart as it is. But I don't like him as the chairman of the Communist Party. He's trying to stamp God and everything else that smells of him out of the world.

But I can't separate him from his job. God help you. Please listen one time.

You can't like Jesus. You can't love Jesus. Unless you put a rebuke on the Lord of the Jews who was a bloody sacrifice on a gold tree and is now sitting on a throne doing what God sent him to do.

Listen to what I'm saying. Unless Rothbard gets the deepest delight and satisfaction and pleasure and joy out of doing what God's people do, I will work and play and everything else and I know I'm telling the truth now. I'm the one activity of God's people as they go about their work and everything else.

They're beholding that one hanging on that cursed bloody tree and see him go with it and tell me this is the day without getting delight and peace sitting on him as he hangs and the Bible is crystal clear. But as God looks at it, I can't understand it. The cross of Jesus Christ is beholden each and every day and forever on that cross.

He was a lamb hanging on it before the foundation of the earth in the sight of God and in the sight of his estate even though he's still hanging there. I look in the face and tell you, casual church attenders, you're

headed for hell if you don't love my Lord. I will keep the Lord and him hanging there to die in the eyes and heart of God.

The eternal bloody sacrifice that people with God's holy law and gospel and the name of God to be just and to justify the ungodliness of sin. But he's also on the cross every day. When he did it, his body was sunk in the bottom forever on the cross.

Thank God forever on the cross. And on that cross there he did it with God's law for all who shall be. On that cross he was found in the spirit of almighty God just and ever with him to carry out all his own purposes with God.

I look in the face and I and tell you, I'm just sick of it. He's on the cross. And he's not on the throne by your election.

He's there wherever you like him to be. He's not on the throne by your commission. He's there by God's exaltation.

God's heaven. Do you let the people know he's coming? I know this. Just take the paper to God's face and the child is there.

What else can it be? It's the last thing. It's the foundation. He's forever on the cross.

Don't you let them forget him. All that the Lord put his soul to. The Lord's forever with us.

God's with us. And this old smitten, terrified, heavy-headed son he finds that forgiveness and remission of his forever on the cross. He's filled with him the love of the blessed good God from his mountain of glory.

He's all that there is left. But the grace of the Holy Christ is teaching not only is one forever on the cross but forever on the throne. And that's why you can't put him down.

And you must follow your vision as he works with this God. And you will share his apprenticeship. And this is interesting to me.

It's not false. It is to be shared. There's nothing else to say.

He preached about his death on the cross. He said it's just a grain of corn falling to the ground and back to the vultures. He said it's to please my flesh to break my flesh before no life in me.

And he preached his infirmity not by words so much as by demonstration. That's always the best. And with television they demonstrate what the present in man doesn't derive in such faith to give to man.

That's all the best. I talked to the lady of the house down east up in the corner and I said, I'm going to buy some of that stuff for John Sullivan. And I'm always trying to get my wife to buy all we've got to do to put it in the same room as the bed and let her nag me because it doesn't quite work that way.

Because it's a day of demonstration all over the house there. And the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated his Lordship. He spoke and waved and let fall to him.

He lay down and went to sleep. He spoke and the disease was banished. He spoke and the dead man came out of the grave.

continues its daily work The work is in the guidance But you live daily in the guidance And it's finished when it comes back But the fruit you see is the seed of the reality Oh, and that's what's in the spirit of Jesus I've seen in all his glory He was transformed And that's what he died on the cross And he started on And there's Jesus, and I'll be just like him And who shall be like him?

What will make us like him? What about God there? God started the process with that in you That's the Lord What? Hanging on that bloody cross What? Sitting on the mouth of the cross And cleaned the blood and it fits into the face of Christ That's the real power that comes in And flows in your eyes So that's where the power is No wonder you don't live daily lives You're not in contact with him on his own That's where the realness is See, you will never be in the dirty See, you will see the realness Yes, together love the one That I wish to empower It's the occupation of him And of course it's the occupation of your life, the chief occupation of your life now, that you're not saved.

You know what I'm talking about, washing the dishes. Where do you get your great delight in? In the church, your husband, your family, your job? Where? Oh, dear Christian, if somebody needs saving much more, you'll see it hanging on that cross, sitting on his hand. Amen? This means essentially because you must be biblically joined to him, you must be married to him, absolutely married to Christ.

That's what it means in the church. Say to John Leach, are you married? Huh? Or are you a priest? You think you're young? Huh? Isn't it silly to talk about it? I don't know whether I'm saved or not. You know whether you're married or not, don't you? Huh? And you know whether you are actually united to the Lord Jesus Christ or not.

I don't know if it's silly. Even though he makes me doubt my salvation, he ain't got nothing to start with. You know.

You know whether you're married or not. You know whether you're joined by faith to him. You know where your delight comes from, don't you? Your future.

You know that, don't you? I fight you. If you come up this little step, but I know when I got saved. That's silly.

Huh? Nobody here knows. That's too wonderful a mystery. He's divine.

You're the world. You're divine, too. Where's the power come from? Divine.

Amen! God bless you. It's essential. How can I know whether I love the Lord Jesus Christ with the love that I've got to have? My time's up.

This is a rather important question. It'll take about three minutes, and I'll let you go. Everybody says they love Jesus.

Well, here are three simple proofs that a person loves the Lord Jesus Christ and finds his peace of life in the universe. He loves the gospel. He just loves the gospel.

It just thrills him every time he hears it. That poorest little old preacher or witness on the street corner that sets you side, top, or bottom of the gospel. God's people love him.

God has not set over you the love of the thing that tells about the Lord. That shows he's not set over you the love of the one he talks about. You love a gospel church.

You are a devil if you give any help to a church. But the pulpit and the sun's cool teachers do not love and preach and live the gospel. You and our church, you can't be.

Because you cannot separate Christ from the gospel of the gospel book. And you cannot separate Christ from a gospel church. That's their bodice.

Now, Christ isn't here in the flesh. And the little Jesus most people say they've accepted is the Jesus of their imagination. We're getting down to brass tacks.

Do you love the gospel? Do you love a gospel church? Do you? Sure enough, that's an asset. I didn't say a fundamental church or an independent church. I said a gospel.

I know lots of fundamental churches wouldn't know the gospel when they're in the room. And I know lots of independent churches that just hate the gospel, fight it, wouldn't let a man in it that believes. I do.

So I'm not using it. I'm just saying, well, the gospel is love and preach and live. Amen? That's the asset.

How can I say whether I love Jesus Christ with the love I must have or be damned by? Well, if I love the brethren, not the members of my little congregation, not the folks who believe like I do, but the brethren. Amen? You got it in for anybody, you go into hell. Somebody hurts your feelings and you haven't heard about it, you go into hell.

And God loves Christ. Loves every one of his dear little people. That's right.

All this flushing and stuff they have in what's called church history. You know what that proves? Just a bunch of unsaved, in for hell, church members. Brother, you can put this down.

You love Christ. Get your delight out of him. You also get a great joy and delight out of the brethren.

We know it's passion, death, and delight. People love all the Baptists. No, no, no.

They love all the folks who have our persuasion. No, no. People love the Baptists.

Amen. And we can tell whether we love Jesus for the love we must have if we keep his commandments. We end up where we keep them perfectly.

So we keep them in the right spirit. Huh? The Lord said so. Didn't he? Maybe I better read it.

Fourteenth chapter of John. He said so. He said, He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.

Amen? And he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, whom first he loved, and I'll love him, and will manifest myself to him. Boy, they're washing the dishes, the plowing the corn. You and the Lord shall have a way of a good time.

Huh? Verse 23, Jesus said unto him, The man loveth me. He'll keep my words. Put that down, brother.

Are you preaching Christian perfection? The Bible teaches it. All these people are going to be perfect some day. Not yet.

But I'm not a perfect preacher, but I'm a preacher. Huh? Huh? I can't live perfectly, but I live. We keep them not because we're scared, but we want to see them.

Huh? We love him. Huh? Amen? I told you this word. You must come to Christ.

Don't stand too far off and believe something about him. Hurry up and get to him. Hurry up and lay hold of him.

Don't let anybody talk you out of it. Get to Christ. Where is he? He's forever on the cross.

Don't try to dodge him. Where is he? He's on the throne, bow to him. Stay there the rest of your life.

Thank God. Amen? Come to him. Come to him.

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