

2017: Week 29

Sunday, July 16th 2017

"The Certainty of God's Judgment"

Acts 17:30-31

³⁰Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men **that all people everywhere should repent**, ³¹because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead" (emphasis mine) (NASB).¹

Sometimes as believers it can be easy to focus so much on the "good news" of the Gospel (because what Jesus has done for us is such GREAT news!) that we overlook the sobering reality of what it means for someone to reject the Gospel. As those who have trusted in Christ we have a peace that surpasses understanding, and we possess a hope in Christ that will not disappoint. On the flip side, those who have not trusted in the Lord Jesus as their Savior do not have peace with God nor do they possess a hope after death. One of the attributes of God's character is that He is just, and consequently He must execute certain judgments. The most impactful judgment of all is God's judgment upon those who reject His plan of salvation through His Son, Jesus. The Bible is full of examples in which the Lord executes judgments upon those who oppose Him. As John mentioned on Sunday, the judgments of God can be a "most inconvenient truth," although they are real nonetheless. May we as believers thank the Lord for saving us in Christ, and may we be motivated to evangelize to those who need to trust in Christ themselves!

1. "THE TEXT"

READ Luke 16:19-31

- How did Jesus contrast the lives of the rich man and Lazarus when they were alive on the earth?
- How did Jesus contrast the experiences of the rich man and Lazarus in Hades?
- What reason did Abraham provide to the rich man as to why a person would find himself suffering in Hades (hint read 16:29 and 16:31)?
- What were Jesus' main points from this passage?

2. "YOU"

- How does the nature of God's justice and forthcoming judgments impact your perspective of the Gospel and its relevance to those you know?
- Why is it fair for God to execute judgment on one who has rejected Him?
- As a believer, the Lord bases His eternal judgment for your sins upon Christ's sacrifice. With whom do you need to share the good news of Jesus? What is preventing you from doing so?

3. "REMEMBER"

- **Galatians 2:16** ¹⁶Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified."
- **John 3:36** ³⁶He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on Him."
- **Romans 5:8-9** ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."

FAMILY PRAYER: Dear Lord, thank You for placing Your wrath (for my sin) upon Jesus at the cross instead of upon me. Help me to share both the "good news" of life in Jesus as well as the "bad news" of condemnation apart from Him. Please provide conversations for me in which I can share the Gospel with those who need to place their faith in You. May You guide me in the power of Your Spirit and for Your glory, Amen!

¹ All Scripture notations taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB) unless otherwise noted.