



2017: Week 6

Sunday, February 5th 2017

"Hand Writing on the Wall"

Proverbs 21:2

"² Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts" (NASB)¹.

On Sunday, John continued our church-wide sermon series through the Book of Daniel. As we studied **Daniel 5** this week we find an attribute of the Lord we sometimes overlook: His justice. The Lord judges our actions, but He also judges our inner thoughts and intentions. His judgments are completely fair, honest, impartial, righteous, and true. As believers we should be grateful the Lord has judged our eternity based upon Christ's death, not upon our lives. His mercy and grace towards us were equally matched with the justice He placed upon His Son because of our sin. And although our eternity is based upon Christ's merit, the Lord still has expectations of faithfulness and obedience from His children. We should not forget the Lord's justice... even as believers. When we become discouraged by the injustices we see around us, may we be reminded that our God is just, and that "He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (**Hebrews 11:6**). May we each individually seek Him, and may we honor Him, regardless of whether those around us choose to do so or not.

1. "THE TEXT"

READ Daniel 5

- When Belshazzar's royal city was completely surrounded by an attacking army, he decided to have a feast with a thousand of his nobles. Why would a king do something like that?
- During the feast, a hand appeared and wrote something on the wall. Daniel's translation of the writing can be summarized with the following three words: *"Numbered, Deficient, Divided."* How might these terms relate with the Lord's judgment upon Belshazzar?
- How did Daniel contrast the pride of King Nebuchadnezzar (remember **Daniel 4**) with the pride of King Belshazzar? (see **v. 21–23**)
- What happened that very night in Belshazzar's life? Also, what can we learn about the timing the Lord may choose to use when executing judgment?

2. "YOU"

- What areas of your life do you need to re-align with the Lord today?
- If you considered that the Lord evaluates your very thoughts, how would it change what you allow yourself to think about?
- When you stand before the judgment seat of Christ, what do you want Him to say to you?

3. "REMEMBER"

- **Galatians 6:7** *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."*
- **Romans 14:10, 12** *"For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God... So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God."*
- **1 John 2:28** *"Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming."*

FAMILY PRAYER: Dear Jesus, thank You for bearing the penalty for my sin at the cross. Help me to live for You now! I want You to be proud of me. I want my thoughts and actions to honor You. I depend upon Your Spirit for strength and help. In Your Name I pray, Amen!

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