

# Service That Will Never Be Forgotten

Matthew 25:31-46

*Halifax: 4 February 2007*

## **Introduction:**

Today we come to our third and final sermon from Matthew 25.

- We have seen that this chapter has to do with the personal, bodily return of our Lord Jesus when He comes to judge the world in righteousness.
  - In particular, this chapter speaks of His judgement of the visible church—that is, of those who are baptised and profess faith in Him.
  - The focus of this chapter is on the great division that will come when He separates those whose profession is false from those whose profession is true.
- Look at what we have seen...
  - In the parable of the ten virgins, all of the virgins are gathered to meet Him,
    - But only five had oil in their lamps—lamps that would never go out because they were fuelled by the Spirit of God.
    - The other five had no oil and were therefore shut out of the great wedding banquet.
  - Then in the parable of the talents,
    - we saw that all three servants were given a deposit to invest for the Lord.
      - But when the Lord came, He found that only two of them had invested their deposit.
        - They had made an investment that would never disappoint!
      - The lazy servant buried his talent and made excuses.
        - He was therefore cast into the place of outer darkness where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth.
  - And this week, we come, not to a parable, but to an actual description of the events of the great day of judgement...
    - Here we see that our love to the Lord is measured by our service to one another...
      - We see that many of the Lord's flock (those who professed to know Him) are found to be without any service to Him,
      - The others are joyfully surprised to find that they have a service that will never be forgotten by the LORD.

Let us now turn to consider this searching description of our Lord's coming...

## **I. See the coming glory of King Jesus.**

- v. 31: When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

### **A. He who was lowly and despised will be gloriously exalted.**

#### **1. At His return, His estate will be entirely different than it was when He was here the first time.**

##### **a. First, He who was born in a lowly manger will come in the clouds with glory!**

- His appearance will be regal and majestic—full of beauty and splendour.
- No one will have to ask who He is!
  - He will be the One “from whose face the earth and heaven shall flee away.”

##### **b. Secondly, He who was accompanied by lowly fishermen will be surrounded by angels.**

- They will come in a glorious display to give homage and worship to Him.
- They will come with Him as His servants to do His will...
  - They will gather the nations to His judgement...
  - They will cast the wicked into the Lake of Fire...
- His companions will no longer be weak, no longer will they be those who can be arrested and fed to lions...
  - They will be invincible and full of glory!

##### **c. Thirdly, He who hung from the cross will be seated on a glorious throne.**

- The one who was judged by ungodly men will now be the Judge.
- The great kings and rulers of the earth will all be brought to stand before Him.

TRANS> At His return, His appearance will be entirely different than it was when He came the first time...

- and not only that, but...

#### **2. At His return, the response of the world will also be entirely different.**

##### **a. They who had easily dismissed Him and His claims as Lord and Creator will suddenly be in absolute awe of Him!**

- They will find that they can no longer dismiss Him.

- b. And they who had generally ignored His commands and His calls will suddenly find that they have no choice but to obey...
    - They will want to hide under the mountains, but they will find that they are compelled to obey His summons to come and be judged...
    - Yes, even those who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth!
    - The day of choices will be over for them.
- B. For the first time, what He thinks will become more important than anything else!
- it will be more important than the rich man's riches,
  - it will be more important than the crack addicts crack or the wino's wine,
  - it will be more important than the scholar's publications,
  - it will be more important than the lottery player's winnings,
  - it will be more important than the actress's beauty,
  - it will be more important than the teenager's popularity,
  - it will even be more important than the starving man's food and the sick man's health.
1. He will have the final word about good and evil, about what is more important and what is less important—
    - His judgement will be the only judgement that matters.
  - a. Since the fall, it has been the way of our ruined race to presume that judgement belongs to us instead of to Him!
    - We feel that we are the ones who ultimately must decide what is worth living for, what we are to do, what we are to avoid, how we are to treat others, what is important and what is not important...
    - If God's word clashes with what we think, that's just too bad for God!
      - My feelings, or my reason, or my experience are the final judge.
      - It is for me to decide what is best for me!
        - That is the way fallen men think until they are converted...
          - and even still, we continue to struggle with our own wilfulness that wars against the will of God.
  - b. But when King Jesus appears in His glory,
    - This great presumption will instantly be corrected!
    - The whole world will see...
      - that it is not about them, but about their Creator!
      - that it is not about their opinions and ideals, but His!

- that they have taken way too much upon themselves to act as judges when there is one so pure, so perfect, so majestic, so beautiful, so glorious to whom all judgement belongs!

2. And indeed, the Lord Jesus will clearly declare what He thinks of every person!

- We are told in verse 32 that He will make a separation between the sheep and the goats from among all the nations.
  - They will come at nations, but from among each nation, sheep and goats will be separated, the sheep on the right and the goats on the left.
  - This will be the judgement of the church in particular, those who were His flock in a visible way...
    - Now He will separate them, the wheat from the tares, the sheep from the goats, and tell us what He thinks of them...
- a. He will be glorified because of generous, gracious assessment of those for whom His kingdom has been prepared.
  - 1) He will declare that they are blessed of the Father!
    - To be blessed of the Father is to be loved by Him...
    - It is to have His favour bestowed on them...
    - It is to be freely given grace and mercy from His hand...
  - 2) He will call them to inherit the kingdom that has been prepared for them from the foundation of the world...
    - A kingdom of righteousness contrasted with this world in that things are done God's way instead of man's way!
      - The law is a law of love instead of a law of selfishness!
      - It is a place where God is worshipped instead of adjusted, ignored, and blasphemed.
  - 3) And note well,
    - This kingdom is not given to them on the basis of merit,
      - but as an *inheritance* that was prepared for them before they had done anything good or evil...
    - From the beginning, God purposed that in His mercy and grace, He would do what was required to give a kingdom of righteousness to sinners...
      - that He would send His Son to establish that kingdom by the price of His own blood.

TRANS> It will be all happiness for these ones to inherit this kingdom where at last God's word will be final and where things will be done His way.

- This is what they had wanted ever since their conversion,
    - How often they had struggled with sin and temptation!
    - But no more!
  - See how the King will be glorified in granting to them this kingdom as a gift of His marvellous grace!
    - Truly, it will be a glorious display of His mercy and kindness...
- b. But note well, He will also be glorified in bringing infinite wrath and perfect justice on others.
- 1) His terrible words of eternal consequence will be heard:
    - Matthew 25:41-43: "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me."
    - Everyone will know that these are the ominous words of the final judge.
      - Here is absolute justice, a sentence that will stand forever.
  - 2) Note well the terrors of this judgement...
    - It is a **final separation** from Christ through whom all sinners now enjoy whatever comforts they have in this world...
    - It is an **everlasting fire**, a place of unspeakable torment that never ends...
    - It is a **consignment to live in a dreadful company**, with the devil and all those angels who are in league with him.
3. See in this great judgement the glory of King Jesus.
- a. It is for Him to have the final say about every person...
    - Whatever He says in that day will determine their final condition of either extreme happiness or extreme misery.
    - All authority is given to Him to execute judgement and decide what will become of every person.
    - The One whose judgement we thought to be so unimportant in this world will suddenly be understood for what it is!

- b. Although men, wanting to bring forward their judgement in the matter, oppose it, verse 46 makes it clear that His judgement will involve no neutrality...
  - Matthew 25:46: "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
    - In the original Greek from which our English Bible is translated,
      - the same adjective is used to speak of the punishment and the life that Jesus gives...
        - It is everlasting punishment and everlasting life...
        - Both are everlasting, both are eternal!
      - The word used clearly means that both punishment and life are without end.
        - In Revelation 20:10, the place of punishment is described as a place where they "will be tormented day and night forever and ever."
  - Men would like to think that the judgement should be less than this because men like to bring their own judgement against the judgement of God!
    - Alas, this is the very presumption into which man fell that brings about his judgement in the first place!
      - That he should be as God, knowing good and evil!
      - That man should rise up to be the judge of all!
  - But in that day when our LORD comes in all His glory,
    - He will speak and His judgement will be executed according to what is written.
    - He will speak from the place of glory, and His judgement will be final.

TRANS> Know, my dear friends, that His glory will not remain hidden forever!

- He is coming and His glory will be clearly revealed!

## **II. If you are wise, you will bring your honours to Him now.**

- A. Know for sure that when you see Him in His glory, you will know without any doubt that you *should* have honoured Him...
  - 1. You will be convinced when you see His glory and authority and beauty that your rightful place is giving honour before Him...
    - as a worshipper and adorer of Him,
    - as an obedient servant of His to do His will as the angels do it in heaven...

- You will know that this one is worthy of all honour, and you would not think of crossing Him when you stand before His awesome throne!
  - Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.
  
- 2. The only reason you are not so convinced of that now is because you have not yet seen the fullness of His glory face to face.
  - none of us have...
    - nevertheless, God's glory is revealed to you through the things He has made, even His eternal power and divine nature so that there is no excuse for not worshipping Him...
      - Even if you don't have a Bible, you have the sun and the stars and the whole world with plant life and animal life and even your own life...
      - These tell you of His glory and ought to make you a worshipper of Him.
  
  - The only reason you *don't* worship Him as you ought is because you suppress the truth about His eternal glory and divine nature that has been revealed to you...
    - All of us do this to a certain extent—believers still have remaining corruption that clouds the vision of His glory...
  
  - But on the day that He makes His glorious appearing,
    - You will no longer be able to suppress the truth!
    - And oh how you will wish that you never had!
      - How you will wish that you had honoured Him all along.
  
  - You will be like those foolish ones who cursed the king until the day you were brought to stand before Him...
    - Like those who talk roughly about the king until they are brought into His presence...
      - And then a great change comes over them...
        - Suddenly they speak with great respect and are prepared to do anything for Him!
        - But what terror it is to them to find out that the king knows all about how they have been treating Him all along the way!

TRANS> Understand, my friends,

B. His judgement will take into account what you have done for Him, not what you do when you stand before His glory, but what you did for Him in His humiliation!

1. That is the ultimate test of your allegiance to Him!
  - a. When David was chased out of Jerusalem in the day of Absalom's rebellion; he found out who his real friends were!
    - There are many that will follow the king when they are before him and when he is armed with great power...
    - but his real servants will follow him when he is weak and unpopular and impotent.
  - b. And I tell you that in this world, the real Jesus is despised and lowly...
    - There is a false Jesus that is sometimes worshipped in this world who is more the product of men's imaginations than the Jesus revealed in God's Word...
      - They have a Jesus who will not judge sinners, a Jesus who does not declare that all deserve to go to hell, a Jesus whose sacrifice is not the only way for sinners to be saved, a Jesus who has not spoken in scripture but a Jesus whose word can be adjusted at will...
      - There is a Jesus like that that is often honoured in the world...
      - But the real Jesus is despised and rejected of men.
  - c. The real Jesus would be put on the cross all over again if He were to come in lowliness again...
    - and He would be put on the cross by the very people who profess His name.
    - The test is not what you would do with Jesus if you should stand before His glory,
      - of course you would bow then!
      - The question is, "what do you do with Him when He is despised and rejected?"
2. Jesus shows you here in this passage do indeed show what you think of Him in His humiliation every day—you show it a thousand time over!
  - a. He tells you that you show it by the way you treat His people, especially the least of them!
    - 1) Jesus tells the righteous that when He was hungry, they had fed Him,
      - and when He was thirsty, they had given Him drink,
      - and that when He was a stranger, they had taken Him in,
      - and that when He was naked, they had clothed Him,
      - and that when He was sick and in prison, they had visited Him.
    - He speaks of Himself in His lowly condition, not in the honour that they now behold...



- And when they ask, “When?” “When did we see you in this lowly condition and minister to you?”
    - He replies (v. 40)
      - Matthew 25:40: “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”
- 2) In the early Church, they had a saying that was taken from this saying of our Lord:
- They said, “In your brother, you have seen the Lord.”
  - In other words,
    - If you love Jesus and want to do something for Him, do something for His people!
    - You show Him what you think of Him every day by the way you treat your brothers and sisters in the Church!
- b. Now I want you think about what was going on when Jesus said all this...
- 1) All you have to do is look down at chapter 26 and you see that Jesus’ enemies are plotting about how they might crucify Him!
- We have seen that Jesus knew all along that this visit to Jerusalem would be His last!
    - He knew that on this visit, He would be delivered up and crucified!
    - We might marvel at the poise and serenity with which He speaks in our passage about His coming glory when He knew the cross was just around the corner for Him!
- 2) Jesus knew that He would be taken away by crucifixion. And He knew what it would be like for disciples after that!
- Unless empowered by His Spirit to do otherwise, they would want to hide away somewhere and pretend that they did not belong to Him!
    - He knew that they would be empowered by His Spirit of boldness to go forth declaring Him to the nations.
    - But He also knew that they would not be popular because of this...
      - He had already told them that they would despised and rejected on account of Him—hated by all men for His sake...
  - Jesus knew that in the days following His crucifixion, His true disciples would be put out of the synagogue...
    - This would put them in conditions of extreme poverty—
      - no one would want to help them for fear—

- no one would hire them or render hospitality to them...
- they would be imprisoned and uncared for.

3) But Jesus also knew that there would be people who heard their message about Him...

- And that these persons would also be given the same Spirit that his apostles had...
  - and that these would take his disciples in and feed them and cloth them and visit them when they were in prison.
  - He knew that their own families would reject them, but that they would still serve one another, loving and providing for each other's needs.
- And Jesus knew that all through the ages it would be the same for His followers...
  - There would be a price for their loving one another, but it would be a price they were willing to pay because of their love for Him.
  - In John's gospel, Jesus said that the great mark that they were His disciples would be the love that they have for one another.

c. Now you may look at this and say, "but conditions are not so bad today."

1) And you are right—they are not so bad, at least not where we live!

- When was the last time you ran across a fellow Christian who was hungry or imprisoned on account of His faith?
- Those who advocate the social gospel have taken this passage and grossly perverted it...
  - They have said that this applies to anyone who is poor or suffering, ignoring the fact that Jesus refers to the least of these **my brethren** who were suffering for His sake.
- It is true that we ought to be ready to help the poor and needy wherever they are,
  - but the social gospel people have taken this to say that even if you are an adulterer, if you feed the hungry and visit the sick, it will go well for you in the judgement...
    - of if you have never even confessed Jesus Christ as Lord or looked to Him for salvation; if you have helped the poor and needy, God will accept you...

- or if you are bitter toward God and go out to relieve them because you feel that God has done them wrong and you want to make it right, still you will have your reward.
  - They have taken the passage completely out of context.
- 2) This is one of those times when it is very important to apply the principle that our LORD is teaching rather than the letter.
- a) The principle is that the way you treat those who are faithful to Jesus (his brethren whom he describes as those who do the will of God) is the way you treat Jesus!
- Do you put distance between yourself and those who are disregarded by our society because of faithfulness to Christ, or do you love them?
  - Not the sword, but the shame of association is one of the biggest stumbling blocks in our particular time and place.
- b) And let me ask you this...
- (i) How do you treat Christ in your home?
- Wife, how do you treat your Christian husband?
    - Do you disrespect him—serve him grudgingly? So you do with Christ.
  - Husband, how do you treat your Christian wife?
    - Are you harsh and unreasonable with her—so you are with Christ.
  - Parents, how do you treat your Covenant children?
    - Are you firm yet tender? Do you deal graciously and patiently with them?
  - Children, how do you treat your parents and you brother or your sister?
    - Are you slow to obey them? Do you roll your eyes when they counsel you? Do you grumble about them? So you do with Christ.
- (ii) And how do you treat other believers?
- Do you treat them in the same way that you would treat Jesus Christ if He were here?
    - Well I tell you, you do treat them the same way you would treat Jesus Christ if He was here...

- Because He tells you in this passage that the way you treat them is the way you are treating Him!
  - Now I know what you would say...
    - Yes, but if Jesus were here, He would not do the things that they do—He would be godly and holy and compassionate.
    - Well, you are right, He would,
      - but do you really think your judgement is so perfect that you would **think** that He was doing what was right all the time?
      - Can you not at least allow for the possibility that there might be many things that He would do that would rub you the wrong way?
      - Or are you perfectly sanctified now.
  - And not only that, but is the love there for your Christian brother that ought to be there for him...
    - Realising that he represents Jesus to you does not mean that you have to pretend he is perfect...
    - In fact, it means that if you find him overtaken in a fault, you go to restore him,
      - but you do it in a way of love, you do it for Jesus' sake!
      - You are to have the same commitment for His well-being that you would have for Jesus' wellbeing if He were here.
- 3) Now my brothers and sisters,
- If you really love Jesus, this is a marvellous doctrine...
    - If you really love Him and want to serve Him, you learn here that He has given you a thousand ways to do it every day!
      - Every time you pour a cup of cold water or change a diaper for your baby or carry out the trash for your Mom,
        - you have an opportunity to do something for Jesus!
        - He receives it as done for Him!
  - And if you see a brother who is ostracised or spoken against because of faithfulness to Christ,
    - you have an opportunity to visit Christ and minister to Him by ministering to that brother...

- If you distance yourself from him, then you distance yourself from Christ.
  - That is how you serve Jesus when He is lowly and despised.
  - That brother or sister will not always be lowly and despised because Jesus will not always be lowly and despised...
    - When He comes in His glory, that brother or sister will be honoured and so will you if you have ministered to him.
    - Jesus will count it as done for Himself.

TRANS> And so it is that on that day, you will be very glad if you have served Jesus when He was lowly and despised...

- On that day, He will not be lowly and despised...
  - If you have served Him, you will be welcomed into heaven...
  - but if you have refused to serve Him in His need, you will be cast into the abyss.
- Does all this stir up a longing in you?
  - I hope it does...
  - I hope it causes you to ask...

### **III. How can I prepare to meet Him in that great day?**

A. What can we all say when we look at a passage like this if we are serious about what God says?

- "I look at myself, and I see that I continually come short of His glory."
  - "How many times do I disregard my brother in his need?"
  - "Where is the eagerness to serve and care for those for whom Christ has died?"
  - "How often do I have to check a rising spirit of irritation toward my brother?"
  - "How often do words of impatience and contempt come out of my mouth!"
  - "How full I am of excuses for why I cannot serve Him!"
- "This is the way I treat my Lord!"
  - "What can I do?"
  - "How can I ever change?"

B. You can only change by coming to Jesus for life...

- He is the only one who can give a life of love to fit you for the great day...
  1. He freely calls you to come to Him for life.

- He says,
  - John 6:35- “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst...For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”
  
- a. You see, the problem is that we are all dead because we are born in sin...
  - We are dead in trespasses and sins and we don't have life.
    - This relates to what I spoke about before:
      - We are alive to ourselves as God but dead to God as God.
      - We have put ourselves in the place of judge instead of living to do the will of God.
    - Our life is death because we are living apart from God, alienated from Him and His law of love.
      - You know, the whole law can be summed up that we are to love God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves.
      - To do anything else shows that we are dead—
        - a dead person does not respond to what is around him...
        - Sinners are dead because we are not interacting with and responding to the greatest most important presence...
          - We are spiritually dead because we live as if God is not.
  
- b. But Jesus is the life giver!
  - If you come to Him, He will give you life as He has promised!
    - Not just that you will exist forever—you are going to do that anyway whether you like it or not—
    - But He will give you life with God!
      - He will give you life that is not alienated from God—life in communion with God...
      - He will make you alive to God's commandments,
        - so that you will delight in His law and obey it!
        - So that you will love God with all your heart and your neighbour as yourself!

- This is the life He calls you to come to Him to obtain!
    - It is the life that He imparts to all who trust in Him—
      - to all who look to Him for it.
2. Of course the life that He gives involves forgiveness and reconciliation.
- a. When you get to the place (if ever you do) that you realise that you are dead and that you need this life...
    - When you once realise how far short you have come and how you have offended God...
      - you will be gripped by the fact that you are utterly condemned unless there is forgiveness with God.
      - You realise that you could never have a right relationship with God unless you are first forgiven...
  - b. And the Lord promises that He will forgive you when you come to Him for life.
    - He promises to accept you, not based on anything good that you have done or anything that you ever could do...
      - (you can never make right all the wrongs that you have done)
        - but rather on the basis of what Christ has done **for** you...
    - Forgiveness is based on the fact that Jesus Christ paid the penalty of your sin when He died on the cross...
      - He suffered what you would have had to suffer on account of your sin.
      - He came in human flesh in order that He might represent us in this way,
        - that He might fulfill everything that God requires in His law for sinners to be pardoned!
        - He lived the life that we must live and bore the curse that we must bear to be accepted of a holy God!

TRANS> And so I can say, “Of course the life that He gives involves forgiveness and reconciliation.”

- There could be no hope of heaven without forgiveness and reconciliation with God, so “of course the life that Jesus gives involves forgiveness and reconciliation...
    - But please understand that it also involves something else...
3. The giving of life to sinners also involves the impartation of a new life.

- a. That should be perfectly obvious, but often it is not!
  - There are many who allegedly come to Christ for eternal life that don't come to Him for **the life that He offers**.
    - They want to live forever on their own terms, but not on His.
    - They don't want to go to Hell, they want to go to heaven as they understand it,
      - but they do not want the new life that Jesus imparts to those who truly believe.
  - Do you understand what I mean?
    - They want things to work out okay at the end and at the judgement, but they don't want a new heart that loves God and loves their neighbour.
    - They want to go on with their old heart without fear of punishment at the end.
      - They may love Jesus in whom they suppose that they have forgiveness, but they do not love Him as the one who is LORD of all and in whose commandments they delight.
      - They are very glad that salvation is not based on works because they don't want to do any works.
- b. But this is **not** what Jesus promises. It is not what the Lord promises in His covenant of grace.
  - 1) He is not interested merely in forgiving us, He is interested in restoring life to us.
    - In His covenant He promises not only to forgive our iniquities and remember our sin no more,
      - But also to give us new heart that delights in His law from within:
      - Heb 10:16: "This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"
        - And His law calls us to love God with all our heart and our neighbour as ourselves...
  - 2) When a person comes to Jesus for life, life is imparted to Him!
    - a) And the result is that you are radically transformed!
      - You live differently because the law of God in your delight...
        - You begin to love Him and to love your neighbour.



- b) Of course I am not saying that you a perfect...
  - you will never be perfect in this life...
    - but you are radically changed!
    - And that change means that you live differently...
      - It means that you love Christ's brethren in visible ways—giving food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty!
      - You walk in the works that God has prepared for you to walk in...
      - You become one who is zealous for good works.
  
- c) And that change is so significant that Jesus will use it as evidence that you are a sheep instead of a goat...
  - He is not teaching that you are saved on the basis of the merit of your good works...
    - But He **is** teaching that you will be distinguished from those who are not saved by your love to His people.
  - It seems clear that both the sheep and the goats were part of Christ's flock in the world...
    - In other words, both were part of the visible church—they professed to be his disciples—they were baptised...
    - But on the day of judgement, He will separate the ones who loved one another from the ones who did not love one another.
      - He will separate them and send them in to two entirely different situations!
  
- c. The difference will be that one has truly obtained new life from Christ and the other has only professed to do so...
  - One has truly loved Christ's brethren because he has received this life of love from Christ...
    - the other has not truly loved Christ's brethren because has not received this life that loves from Christ.

C. So what is there for you to do my friends?

1. It is for you to come to Christ that you might obtain the life that He offers...
  - and to do it now!
  - It will be too late on the day of judgement.
    - Come to Him now and He will give you this life now—and you will be changed—

- you will begin to live unto God—
  - you will be a new creation in Jesus Christ—
  - you will have a heart of faith and obedience—
  - you will begin to be renewed into the image of Him that created you—
  - you will begin to love according to God's will.
2. The apostle John makes it clear that this is the way we assure our hearts before Him that we truly do belong to Him.
- 1 John 3:16-19: By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.
  - This love is not what makes you acceptable in God's sight...
    - It is only the righteousness of Christ that does that...
    - But this love is what evidences you to be one who has truly obtained salvation from Christ.
      - There is a new principle of life in you and it will be yours for ever and ever.
      - May each one of you know this life!
3. What a marvellous thing it will be when we stand dazzled by the glory of our Lord Jesus and He, in His incredible grace,
- remembers every little act that we have done by His grace in this life and commends us for it...
    - How we will marvel, that He, who is so beautiful and glorious and exalted, has taken every little thing done from heart renewed by His grace, as done for Himself!
    - Amen! May it be so!