

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Who Is Jesus? Pt 6

Acts 10:36-48

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SermonAudio Blurb: Peter is now ready to address the house of Cornelius, filled with friends and family of this Centurion. But what is his message? It begins and ends with the person and work of Jesus. In this short series we walk through his words to see the many qualities that belong to Jesus and see the utter centrality of Him in all things. In this message we consider the serious truths that He is both our Judge and our Savior.

I. Introduction.

- A. 14 Qualities about Jesus.
 - 1. Peace-Maker (36a).
 - 2. Messiah (36b).
 - 3. Lord (36c).
 - 4. Historical (37a).
 - 5. The focus of the prophets (37b).
 - 6. Anointed by the Holy Spirit (38).
 - 7. Sacrifice and High Priest (39).
 - 8. Resurrected (40-41).
 - 9. Focus of New Testament Preaching (42a).
- B. When we speak of Jesus we often focus on His saving work.
- C. Two key distinctions when talking about God and judgment
 - 1. *Temporal.*
 - a. This sort of judgment happens all the time and is hard to discern with absolute certainty if a certain event is God's judgment in these sort of situations.
 - b. This is not a final judgment but merely an intermediary before God's final judgment.
 - 2. *Final.*

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- a. This will also be called *eternal judgment* by many.
 - b. Final judgment is not reserved for only those who reject God. It is for all people and no one shall escape it.
- D. Another term is vitally connected to judgment in the bible—wrath.
1. Again, this is seen in both a temporal and final aspect.
 - a. So you will find examples where God’s wrath is expressed in some very powerful and frightening and brutal ways.
 - b. In 2 Kings 22:13 ***“Go, inquire of YHWH for me and the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is the wrath of YHWH that burns against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”***
 2. But there is a final expression of God’s wrath that is related to the final judgment. To make a fine distinction here, the judgment is where it is determined what was done. And the wrath is the execution of the sentence.
 - a. In the Old Testament it is seen in passages such as Zephaniah 1:14-17, ***“Near is the great day of Yahweh, Near and coming very quickly; O the sound, the day of Yahweh! In it the mighty man cries out bitterly. A day of fury is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and thick darkness. . . . Because they have sinned against Yahweh; And their blood will be poured out like dust And their flesh like dung.”***
 - b. This Old Testament idea is very common and it is from this background that John the Baptist challenged the religious leaders who were coming out to him for baptism. He bluntly asked them, *“who warned you to flee from the wrath to come.”*
- E. Today we will see two other key aspects of Jesus Christ that Peter describes to Cornelius and his whole household—Jesus as Judge and as Savior.
1. We must keep these two point together to properly appreciate what the bible is proclaiming when it calls us to come, repent and follow Jesus by faith.
 2. If we remove or downplay God’s inherent justice and hatred for sin then we will necessarily downplay the saving work of Jesus.

II. 14 Qualities about Jesus.

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- A. Judge of All (42b).
 - 1. Note from where this authority flows:

 - 2. Note the extent of the judgment.

 - 3. And so we have the certainty that all of us will see Jesus. None of us will escape that day of judgment. But this is where the whole idea of salvation then enters in.
 - a. John 5:22-30.
 - b. In this famous Father/Son speech Jesus makes it clear that you must accept Him and God the Father as a package.
 - c. And a part of that is understanding for these Jews hearing Him, is that He was to be their judge, not the Father (22). They have no other authority to which to appeal.
 - d. Therefore you don't honor Jesus as the Son of God then you do not honor the Father (23). If this is hard to see why, perhaps understanding that when a person dishonors their mother, that they have dishonored their father as well.
 - e. But hear the words of Jesus, and believe that He is sent by the Father and you will not come into this judgment.
 - f. In vs 25-28 we see that this is all happening after the resurrection of the dead.
 - g. But in vs 29 we see two very different end points for these resurrections.

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h. So the next question is, what shall be the manner in which Jesus will judge you? Vs 30 tells us. It will be in perfect accordance to His Father.

4. God is just, infinitely and perfectly just, and He will not pretend sin didn't happen and we see this in Psalm 50.

a. Psalm 50:21.

b. Vss 16-20.

(1) vs 16: They claim to follow YHWH. They take the covenant with God with their lips, but they have no intention of actually following Him.

(2) vs 17: This shows itself in a stubborn, stiff-neck typ of attitude. Notice how this person says one thing with his words but then rejects God's words. We call this hypocrisy.

(3) vs 18, their lives are, in essence, no different than the sinner.

B. Savior (43).

1. ***“Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”*** (Acts 10:43)

2. This takes us back to my sermon a few weeks ago about Jesus being our perfect sacrifice and High Priest.

a. Jesus is not just a good example of what we ought to do or be. He is not some Greek archetype of this higher plane or standard.

b. Without Him as Savior then we have no hope.

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- c. This gets into the idea of His resurrection. Remember what we learned in 1 Corinthians 15. If there is no resurrection then Christ did not rise. And if Christ did not rise, then we are still in our sins.
3. But this is our Jesus, our great High Priest.
 - a. He does not bid the self-righteous to come. For they have no need or desire for Him.
 - b. But if you are a sinner and you know you are a sinner. If you know you are under the sentence of eternal death. If you know that the wrath of God resides upon you. Then there is great hope to be found.
4. Are you the religious leaders of Jesus' day? You murmur about those wicked sinners and you are thankful that you are not like them. Then Jesus is not for you.
5. Jesus came to save those who are lost, sick, bowed down, full of misery, poor and weary, friendless and without hope.
6. This is the Jesus I present to you. Hear the words of Paul, ***"In [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight"*** (Ephesians 1:7-8).
7. When we talk about Jesus as Savior, we are primarily talking about salvation from the wrath to come. The judgment of guilty that will be rendered against all who do not know Jesus.
8. But to the weary and burdened He bids you, as you are, sin-filled and full of misery, to come and find your eternal rest in Him. The wounds of your soul and body shall be healed by His wounds upon the cross.
9. And you shall enter rest and true life.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Beloved, Jesus did not give His life for our righteousness. He did it, according to the Bible, to deliver us from our sins and this present age of sin.
 1. Sin is a horrible cancer and a devious evil.
 2. We make friends with it with the greatest of ease for we live in a world under the domination of sin. We sin. Our friends sin. And we swim in sin.
 3. And Jesus died to deliver us from this realm of which we cannot escape on our own.

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- B. His very name is “Jesus” **“for He will save His people from THEIR sins”** (Matthew 1:21).
 - 1. And so if He fails to do this, then even His name is a lie.
 - 2. But He did die on our behalf. He did rise from the grave as He promised and He is our present salvation.
 - 3. But He is also Judge.
- C. So come now, oh sinner, and put your trust in no where else but Him. He demands your all. But He grants you all that is His. There is no loss but only gain.

Benediction

**Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever.
Amen.**