

OLD-TIME RELIGION
12 Fervent, Soul-Winning Sermons

By

Evangelist Joe Henry Hankins, D. D.

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CHAPTER NINE

WHEN GOD EVENS THE SCORE

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"Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14).

I think you will find more in the Bible on the subject of judgment than almost anything else. You will find teachings about the judgment and warnings of judgment from Genesis to Revelation; from the third chapter of Genesis to the last chapters of Revelation. Judgment! Paul said to the fastidious crowd at Athens: **"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead"** (Acts 17:30, 31).

Paul meant that just as certainly as CHRIST rose from the dead, just that certainly all men are coming to judgment; that GOD had guaranteed, absolutely assured it, when He raised CHRIST from the dead.

JESUS spoke again and again of judgment. When He upbraided the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida, He said, **"Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you"** (Matthew 11:21, 22). Judgment!

And then to Capernaum He gave the same warning. Because they rejected His words, JESUS said, **"For if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee"** (Matthew 11:23, 24).

JESUS said in Matthew 12:36, "**Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.**" Not a thing will escape: even every word must be brought into judgment.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 is a warning to young people: "**Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.**"

I have heard so many people say that all young men have to sow their wild oats. If they do, they are going to reap them. And judgment is not all yonder at the Great White Throne. You pay off here, too. A lot of people think that when GOD said, "**Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap,**" that He was talking only to unsaved people. But that was written primarily to saved people. There is no such thing as sinning and getting away with it. To the Christian as well as the unsaved, GOD says, "**Every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward**" (Hebrews 2:2).

But, by the grace of GOD, everyone has the privilege of having his sins judged before he reaches the judgment bar of GOD.

I. Calvary Is a Preview of Judgment

I used to puzzle a lot about I Timothy 5:24. It reads like this: "**Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.**"

It simply means that everyone has the privilege of sending his sins before him to judgment and having them judged on the cross of JESUS CHRIST. For there He bore in His own body our sins on the tree. There He tasted death for every man. There He gave His life a ransom for many. There He made atonement for the sins of the world. And He "**is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world,**" says the Word of GOD in, I John 2:2.

Everything about Calvary is a judgment scene.

We are told in II Corinthians 5:21 that, on Calvary, "**he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**"

To me that is the greatest mystery about the atonement.

The sinless Son of GOD actually became sin in GOD's wondrous plan of redemption. There He was made to be sin. There judgment and the wrath of GOD against sin were poured out upon him, and the sword of GOD's justice was plunged into His heart. There all of the wrath of GOD against sin fell upon Him as He literally took the sinner's place.

That is more than just bearing our sins. He actually was made to be sin.

When the Son of GOD was made to be sin, there was fulfilled that wondrous type of the Old Testament of the brazen serpent on the pole, lifted up by Moses in the wilderness, when the Israelites were bitten by the fiery serpent. To everyone that was bitten it meant certain death. There was absolutely no human remedy for it. It made no difference how young, how good, how wonderful, how clean, how educated or anything else - to everyone bitten by the serpent, it meant certain death.

But they came to Moses and confessed their sins. They said, '**We have sinned. Pray for us.**' Moses took their case to GOD, and GOD told him to make a serpent of brass and put it upon a pole and send word out in the camp that every person who would look at that brazen serpent uplifted in the midst of the camp, would live and be healed. And they were healed instantly.

I knew that was a type of CHRIST a long time before I had studied the Bible very much.

But I used to wonder how a serpent could be a type of CHRIST, for I knew that all through the Bible the serpent was a type of sin and of Satan. It was the serpent that wriggled his slimy trail into the Garden of Eden and deceived the mother of the race. And he is spoken of as "**that old serpent, which is the devil,**" and the serpent of sin throughout the Bible. GOD said of sin that "**at the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.**"

I said, How could that represent CHRIST? There is only one time in all eternity that that type is true. A serpent (representing sin) being made of brass, represents sin under judgment. For brass in the Old Testament is a symbol of judgment. That is the reason the altar where the burnt-offering was made was a brazen altar. That is the reason the laver was a brazen laver - sin under judgment.

So when, on the cross, the Son of GOD was made to be sin, He was the perfect fulfillment of the type in the brazen serpent. For the Son of GOD, having been made sin, is taking the sinner's place in judgment. That is the reason the darkness gathered around the cross. It is the darkness of Hell. He is dipping His soul into Hell for us.

Calvary is a preview of the great day of judgment for a sinning, ungodly, lost world.

There you get a preview of the darkness of Hell. When you see the sun go out in the sky and that darkness that can be felt gathers around the Cross and the earth begins to tremble and the rocks are rent and tumbling into the valleys below, it is only a little preview of that day John described when the whole universe is going to be shaken to pieces and the sun becomes as black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon will hang in the sky like a clot of blood; when the stars of Heaven fall, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Calvary is a judgment scene. But, praise GOD, I see Him taking my place in judgment; bearing my sins! GOD says that I can send my sins on before me to judgment when I lay them on Him by faith. He has already paid the penalty. He has already died for me. He tasted death for all men. He has already died the death that I should have died without Him.

Then another thing that you see on Calvary is that JESUS not only becomes sin, but the Scripture

says that He was made a curse.

Oh, the blessed Son of GOD going to that extent to redeem me from sin, to be made sin and then be made a curse!

- He whose every touch was a blessing and a benediction;
- He whose touch opened blind eyes;
- He whose very words caused the lame to leap like a hart, and caused the deaf ears to be unstopped, raised the sick and raised the dead, and brought untold blessing to humanity;

this JESUS was willing to be made a curse that I might be delivered from the curse.

The law of GOD had said, "**Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.**" I know, and you know, that we have not continued in all things that are written in the law to do them. Therefore the whole world is under the curse of GOD. But the Son of GOD literally took our place and was made a curse.

That is the meaning of the crown of thorns. Listen, there is nothing about Calvary that is an accident. GOD planned it all from before the foundation of the world. For the thorns, as we are told in the third chapter of Genesis, are a symbol of the curse that sin brought.

When sin came, GOD said, "**Cursed is the ground for thy sake,**" and '**it shall bring forth thorns also and thistles.**' Everywhere you see a thorn, let it remind you that there is a curse upon this creation because man has sinned. There is a curse upon all humankind. There is a curse upon the whole world because of man's sin. When they plaited that crown of thorns and placed it on the Saviour's brow, placing upon Him the symbol of the curse, GOD was saying to you and me that He was made a curse for us.

Then in the midst of that scene of judgment you will hear a brokenhearted cry out of that midnight darkness of Hell. Will you hear it! "**My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**"

Did you realize that that is the only time in the earthly life of our Lord that He ever addressed the Father as GOD? Even as a little child He said to His mother, "**Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?**" But now what is the explanation? When He is made a curse, when He is made sin, then even the relationship of Father and Son has been severed. GOD has turned His back on Him, abandoned Him, and the relationship no longer exists.

In the sinner's place, under the sinner's judgment, under the sinner's curse, He cries out, "**My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**" Friend, it is the cry of an abandoned soul! It is the cry that JESUS speaks of so many times when He says of the lost, when their doom is pronounced upon them, "**There shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.**"

Some men's sins go before them to judgment. Oh, praise GOD, mine have already been judged! That is what Paul meant when he said, "**There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus**" (Romans 8:1).

The judgment against sin, the penalty and debt have already been paid.

Paul said in the next verse, **"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."**

The law of sin and death in the Old Testament was stated like this: **"The soul that sinneth, it shall die"** (Ezekiel 4:20). GOD stated it to Adam and Eve when He started them out in life. He said, **"In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"** (Genesis 2:17).

Sin means death and separation from GOD: eternal death, death in an endless Hell. But JESUS has made us free from the law of sin and death. That is the reason He Himself said in John 5:24, **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation."**

My sins have gone before me to judgment! The day that I repented of my sins, and by faith put my trust in Him, it was all settled. For GOD has already laid all my sins upon Him. That is what Isaiah meant when he said, **"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed"** (Isaiah 53:5).

But, hear me! your sins must either be judged upon the Cross in the person of JESUS CHRIST, or they will have to be judged upon you in Hell. There is no other recourse. If you do not send them on before you to judgment, they will follow you to the Great White Throne of judgment. They must be judged. Do not deceive yourself about that.

II. Judgment of the Believer's Sins

What about a Christian's sins after he is saved? Something has to be done about that. I said GOD is going to even the score. And when GOD gets through nothing will have been left out. He will not overlook a thing. So many people imagine that after you are saved, if you sin you are lost again: if you ever sin, if it ever trips you up, if you get back into the world and back into sin, you are lost again. And I have seen so many people trying to be saved all over again. You cannot do it. You are born only once. We become children of GOD not by contract but by birth. What does GOD do with His children when they sin? Throw them out? Disown them? Send them to Hell? GOD says no; **"Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail"** (Psalm 89:32,33).

Listen again to His Word in the twelfth chapter of Hebrews, **"My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."**

I preached a sermon once on *"The Rod of GOD,"* how GOD chastens and corrects, and the extreme to which GOD will go if He has to, to correct His child.

A very fashionable society lady, with diamonds all over, came up to me and said, "I don't believe a word you preached tonight."

I said, "That is funny. I got it out of the Bible."

She said, "You talk about GOD chastising His children."

I want you to know that I have done everything you have been talking about tonight. I have been a member of the church for thirty-five years. I play bridge, I drink liquor, I smoke cigarettes, I go to picture shows, I give cocktail parties, and so on, but GOD never has chastened me."

I said, "Wait a minute, sister."

And then I quoted Hebrews 12:8, "**But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**"

And then I said, "Now classify yourself."

Did she get mad! She went away telling everybody what I had called her. And I hadn't called her a thing! That is what GOD said. And it means just what it says. I don't care whose church you may be a member of, or how long you have been a member; if you can dabble in the world - you hear me - and run after the Devil and chase around after sin, and GOD doesn't lay the rod on, you are lost and on the road to Hell. And that applies to every last professing Christian on earth. GOD said His children cannot sin without being chastened.

And let me stop here long enough to say that if you don't make your children obey you, they will never respect you when they grow up. They lose respect for you. Whenever you let your children grow up under the self-expression theory, and you are afraid to correct them or chasten them when they do wrong, they will grow up without any respect for you. I thank GOD for an old father whose head now is as white as snow. How I reverence him! But, brother, his word was law. And when he said, "Don't," it meant just that. And he spoke but once.

"We have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: [It hurts! And how well do I know that it hurts!] nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:9-11).

GOD chastens in order to purge out those things that are wrong in our lives and correct us that we might be partakers of His holiness.

But wait a minute. How far will GOD go in correcting His child?

Well, Moses is a good example. After GOD had trained Moses for eighty years (forty years in Egypt and forty years in the desert) Moses, knowing exactly what GOD had commanded about the ordinance of circumcision, but, because he had gone over into Midian and married a Gentile woman who objected to her boys being submitted to that ordinance, listened to his wife instead of to GOD. And when GOD told him to go down into Egypt to lead the Israelites out into the promised land, Moses was going to take those boys along with him without this seal of circumcision. Knowing that GOD had said no male who did not bear that seal would ever be permitted to possess any of that land, yet Moses was going to take them anyway.

On the way to Egypt one night they stopped at an inn. And GOD sought to kill Moses that night (Exodus 4:24). GOD appeared in that inn and faced Moses with it and said, in substance, "Moses, even though I spent eighty years getting you ready for this job, I will kill you before I will let you go another step until you have done what I have told you to do. I will kill you and start all over again and raise up someone else." Listen, the sooner we learn that GOD will do what He says, the better.

Paul said in I Corinthians 11:30, speaking about the disobedience of the people in the church of Corinth and pointing out their sins, **"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."**

They hadn't cleaned those things out of the church, but had rather condoned them. Because of this, many had lost their health and many slept in the grave. Brother, when GOD speaks, He means business! And if you are GOD's child and bow your neck against GOD, He will break your neck. The sooner we learn that GOD means what He says, the better. You can't get away with it. GOD is not going to send you to Hell, but GOD is not going to let that sin go without being judged.

But now here is one of those wonders of GOD's grace.

In the thirty-first and thirty-second verses of that same chapter Paul said, **"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."**

Did you hear that? Oh, the marvel of the grace of GOD, that He gives us the privilege of sitting in judgment on ourselves, correcting the thing that is wrong, getting it out of our life, confessing it to the Lord and thereby escaping the rod of GOD!

John said, **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"** (I John 1:9).

If I am willing to face my sin instead of trying to dodge it and excuse myself for it, saying, "I see no harm in this, I see no harm in that," or, "Everybody else does it," and I justify myself by the fact that everybody else does it, and go on in the thing that GOD absolutely forbids in His Word; if I am determined that I am going to be like everybody else and go on and persist in it, GOD will have to judge me. And GOD says if He judges me, He will chasten me. Rather than condemn me, He will chasten me. But praise GOD, if I will face it and quit it and give it up and

confess it to GOD and turn my back on it, I escape the chastening of GOD. I have the privilege of judging myself. But if I will not do it, GOD says that He will.

III. Judgment of the Believer's Works

GOD tells us that a Christian's works - all of them - are coming to judgment. Coming to judgment when? When JESUS comes back. JESUS said in Matthew 16:27, "**For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.**"

He said in Luke 14:12-14:

"When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors, lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed, for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."

We all know that the resurrection of the just occurs when the Lord comes back. The first thing that will happen at the return of the Lord is that "**the dead in CHRIST shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air**" (I Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

GOD says He will recompense His children then.

Second Corinthians 5:10 says, "**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.**"

Oh yes, child of GOD, don't think that because you are saved you can sit down and fold your hands and fiddle your time away; that you can live selfishly and take it easy and let the world go to Hell; that you can rob GOD of His tithe and use it on yourself; or that you can live like the world and it doesn't make any difference now.

I have heard a lot of people say, "If I get a back seat in Heaven, I will be satisfied," or, "If I just get in my the skin of my teeth, it will be all right." But wait a minute: What did JESUS mean when He said, "**Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**"? (Matthew 6:19).

There is going to be a reckoning.

In the parable of the talents He says: "**After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them**" (a reckoning day for the child of GOD, and the faithful servant of GOD is going to be rewarded. Here is where GOD is going to even the score again. Everything that a child of GOD has done for the Lord will be rewarded in that day.

"Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42).

Everything! GOD is not going to overlook anything, not a thing.

Listen again to I Corinthians 3:10-15:

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

Every man, every woman, every child who builds out of wood, hay and stubble, will lose every bit of it. Only gold, silver and precious stones will abide the testing of the fire.

The Lord said some people will be saved, but they will get an awful singeing. Some day I am going to preach a sermon on *"Saved but Singed."* GOD will have to snatch some out of the fire. The Word says that they themselves will be saved, but they will have nothing left and will stand before GOD empty-handed. John said in I John 2:28, **"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."**

Can you feature it? The most glorious moment this old world will ever know is when our Lord comes. This lazy, good-for-nothing, worldly, careless, indifferent, easy-going, lukewarm crowd of church members - those of them who are saved - will be saved but singed. They will stand before the Lord and hang their heads in shame when they face Him in the most glorious hour of the ages.

Who will wear crowns in that day?

We talk and sing about stars in our crowns. The Bible does not saying anything about stars in anybody's crown. Then we sing, *"When the battle is over, we shall wear a crown,"* as though everybody will wear a crown. But the fact of the matter is, there are very few who will know anything about wearing a crown. Who will wear a crown?

There are just five groups mentioned in the Scripture:

1. The Crown of Rejoicing.

The first is the soul winner's crown, which is mentioned in I Thessalonians 2:19. Paul said there,

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" You who have won others to the Lord will be given a crown, the soul winner's crown.

2. The Crown of Life.

There is another crown promised to those who are faithful in the Christian life. Regardless of what comes or goes, they are faithful to the last step of the way. In Revelation 2:10 we read, **"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."** Brother, that is not promised to this worldly, easy-going, "Good Lord-Good Devil" sort of a crowd, but to those who are faithful to the last step. In James 1:12 the same crown is promised: **"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."**

3. The Crown of Glory.

Then another crowd is promised a crown. This crown is for the faithful preachers of the Word of GOD, who preach it regardless of what anybody thinks or says. First Peter 5:2 is talking about preachers feeding the flock and being true to the Word. Then Peter said in verse 4, **"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."**

I may miss some of the rest of them but I know I will get that one. I have never preached a sermon in my life that I could not give you the Word of GOD for I have never dodged any truth in the Word of GOD.

When I was pastor of a church I never had to get an evangelist to tell my people anything they needed to be told. I opened the Word of GOD to them in love. In love I stood in my pulpit and preached the truth. When I stood there and I knew it was hard truth and it was reproofing and rebuking my people, I preached it in tears, but I knew I must first of all be true to GOD's Word.

Some people think I preach harshly. They say that I preach too much on Hell, condemnation, judgment and such things when the Bible is full of love and grace. Yes, it is. But listen: I have to be faithful in warning people of the dangers that confront them. I must tell them the truth. When the Lord comes, He will give us the crown of glory. I think that applies also to faithful teachers of the Word: men and women alike who rightly divide the Word of truth; who really break the bread of life; who are faithful in imparting the truth. For that they will get a crown of glory. But this crowd of sissies who cannot stand the truth - brother, it is not promised to them.

4. The Crown of Righteousness.

Another crown is promised which is called the crown of righteousness. Paul says in II Timothy 4:7, 8: **"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."**

That crown of righteousness will be given to those who love His appearing. Could you honestly say that you love His appearing? Think it over. How many Christians, if you would be perfectly frank and honest, if you thought the Lord were coming, would be scared to death, panic-stricken?

It is easy enough to say you would like to see Him come, but have you faced it? Who are the crowd that love His appearing? Those who are watching, as He said; those who are on the job, not these idlers. They do not love the Lord's appearing. But the person who is going down the line for GOD, working for GOD, working as if it were the last day before JESUS should come, doing his dead level best for GOD - that is the crowd JESUS said, who are watching. That is the crowd who love His appearing. They will receive a crown of righteousness.

5. The Incorruptible Crown.

There is one more crown mentioned in I Corinthians 9:25 - the incorruptible crown. Paul, describing a race, says that men on the race course in an arena are running to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. These men strive for the mastery, train for it, sacrifice for it, keep their bodies in trim, under subjection. Paul said, **'I keep my body under subjection, running so I may obtain, too.'** The crown is promised to those who keep a rein on their physical life, their lower natures; who keep walking in the Spirit, and keep the body under and crucify it; who are willing to pay the price to run a good race for GOD, to keep fit for His service; those who live a consistent, overcoming, Christian life.

There are only five crowns offered in the Word of GOD.

Can you qualify?

You know we love to say that we shall all reign with CHRIST. How we can sing that! How we can shout about it! How we can preach that! We can wax most eloquent when we say, "One day we shall all reign with the Lord." Don't ever think so. The Bible doesn't say so.

Second Timothy 2:12 says, **"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him."**

That is the crowd who will reign with Him. Do you get it?

Again Revelation 2:26 says, **"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations."**

When He sets up His kingdom, those who reign with Him are those who can be classed as overcomers. It is not the lazy, good-for-nothing, easy-going, blow hot, blow cold crowd that He is talking about.

Listen again to Revelation 3:21, **"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."**

Yes, GOD is going to even things up some day. When He does, He will not overlook a thing.

David said in Psalms 56:8, "**Put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?**"

Every tear that GOD's children ever shed as they have been persecuted by an ungodly world; every tear ever shed over lost souls; every tear shed in agonizing for the work of the kingdom, has been kept by the Lord in His bottle: He is keeping them as precious treasures. One day each child of GOD will be rewarded for every one.

Listen again. Even the prayers GOD's children have prayed are kept and will be rewarded.

When John saw the Lord, sitting on the throne of glory, there was an angel standing before the throne with a golden censer full of incense and the smoke ascending up to the throne. John said those were the prayers of the saints, which have been preserved there. Every one of them has been kept and is precious in the sight of the Lord. Yes, in the treasure house of the Lord there will be many a tear, many a prayer, many a cup of cold water, many a widow's mite, and GOD will reward everyone.

We shout loudly that we are all heirs of GOD and joint heirs with JESUS CHRIST. But what does the Scripture say?

Romans 8:17 says, "**If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.**"

There it is again, " . . . **if so be that we suffer with him . . .** "

Oh, my friend, it is those who are willing to face a frowning world, a persecuting world, willing to stand whatever the cost and stay true to GOD, who are the heirs of GOD.

IV. The Great White Throne Judgment

Before I close, I want to speak of one more judgment - the judgment of the Great White Throne. Here are those who failed to send their sins on before them to judgment by laying them on CHRIST. Now their sins are following after them. Hear it!

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, [the unsaved dead now going up] stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the book" (Revelation 20:11, 12).

Somebody says, "If the saved are not there as the unsaved are what is the book of life doing there?" Wait a minute, and I will tell you.

In the seventh chapter of Matthew, JESUS said:

"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day,

Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

In other words, "Lord, you ought to let us into Heaven. Just look what we have done!"

Then the Lord will reach up, take down the book of life and show them that their names are not written there.

The last verse of the twentieth chapter of Revelation reads, "**And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**"

Brother, it is not your works; it is not your self-righteousness; but it all depends upon whether you have trusted JESUS, whether your name has been written in that book, and whether your sins have gone before you to judgment. If they have not, they will most certainly follow you to judgment. All sin must come to judgment: they must either be judged on CHRIST at Calvary or upon your soul in Hell.

I beseech you, take advantage of GOD's offer of grace; receive JESUS by faith as your Sin-bearer and send your sins before you to judgment.

~ end of chapter 9 ~

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