

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

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THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD

By: Dr. C. D. Cole

Romans 2:5, *“But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”* Acts 17:31, *“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.”* II Thessalonians 1:5, *“Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer.”* II Corinthians 5:18, *“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.”*

God is the Judge of all the earth. But God is also the Saviour. We must take care lest we confuse these two offices of God. Many, by confusing the work of God as a Judge and a Saviour, have, in their thinking, dethroned God and turned the world with all its creatures over to chance, or fate, or natural law, to work out its destiny. But this is to greatly err, not knowing

the Scriptures, nor the power of God.

God is the law-giver, and will enforce His law. He has never vacated His throne for a moment, nor will He ever do so. No law ever enforce itself in the government of men, any more than a train, well-equipped, will run without an engineer, fireman, conductor, etc. The biggest question in human government is law-enforcement. Punishment is the inevitable result of sin. Violated law is the source of danger, because God lives and reigns to enforce its penalty.

DAY OF WRATH

Our text points to a day of wrath. This day is in the future, but no one of us knows how soon it may become a present reality. The word day is used in the Bible; not only to denote a period of twenty-four hours, but also to denote an indefinite period of time. We are now living in the day of salvation. II Corinthians 6:2, *“(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”* God is on His throne, but through the death of Christ it has been turned

for a while into a throne of grace. His longsuffering is now being wondrously manifested, and His wrath is being held back. The longsuffering of God is now waiting as in the day of Noah. This results in two things: The salvation of the elect. II Peter 3:9-15, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with*

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THE NEGLECT OF DISCIPLINE

By: Dr. C. D. Cole

How prevalent and widespread is the neglect of church discipline. Many churches have neglected their duty in this respect until they are too weak to cast off the parasites that infest the body of Christ, and draw from it its spiritual life. A regenerated membership and failure to discipline cannot, under the present system of receiving members, long co-exist. Some of our pastors have confessed that the mere mention of the subject caused such a furor, and was met with such opposition, that they had decided never to mention the matter again. Henry Ward Beecher once boasted that there had never been any discipline in his church from its organization, but afterwards he himself was charged with heresy, for his disbelief in eternal punishment. It is usual for people to talk about how the church mistreats its members by excluding them. Why not talk with more sense, and turn the thing around and talk awhile about how members mistreat the church. It is dangerous to persecute the church that attempts to obey the Lord's command. It is wiser and better to manifest the spirit of the song;

*"I love thy kingdom, Lord
The house of thine abode;
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood,
I love the church, O God:
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand."*

WHY DISCIPLINE?

Because the Word commands it, and this is a sufficient reason. Deuteronomy 8:5, "*Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.*"

Psalm 6:1-2, "*O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak...*" Psalm 94:12, "*Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law.*" Psalm 118:18, "*The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.*" Proverbs 19:18, "*Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.*" Hebrews 12:5-6, "*...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.*"

The church that fails to discipline is disobedient to God. II Thessalonians 3:6, "*Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.*" Hebrews 12:9-11, "*Furthermore 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 by partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*"

For the good of the offending member. Matthew 18:15-18, "*Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell*

him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

For the purity of the church. I Corinthians 5:1, 2, 6, 7, "*It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you...Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump...*" To the church that does not discipline, the doctrine of a regenerated membership will soon become a vain boast and an empty brag. A church is like the human body. The human body is composed of numberless living cells, each an individual, but each cooperating with the others. When each does its part there is health and peace, but when certain cells of the body, instead of co-operating for the common good, for some reason become isolated from their normal associations, and have set up colonies of detached structures, the

result is such a parasitic growth as we call cancer, which preys on the organism and sets up a hostile function. Then an operation becomes necessary in which the malignant growth is removed. It is much the same in church life. The only way for a church's life to be normal is to have all the members working together with one another and with God. As soon as one ceases to function and become indifferent there is great danger of spiritual cancer. Indifference leads to opposition and opposition calls for an operation, if the church life is to be kept normal and healthy. The church may have the ungodly against them in the matter of discipline, but they will have God on their side; Romans 9:31, "*If God be for us, who can be against us.*" It is better to have trouble with man than with God.

THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT OF GOD (Continued from page 1)

fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation..." The treasuring up wrath for the day of wrath for others. Romans 9:22, "*What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.*" Romans 2:5, "*But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.*"

DAY OF REVELATION

This day of wrath is called the

day of the revelation of the righteous judgment of God. In this day, God's righteous judgment is hidden. He reigns, but through providence, and providence is always mysterious. Examples: Job in the dunghill; Joseph in prison; Daniel in the lion's den; the martyrs at the stake. God is righteous in all His ways, but His righteousness does not appear to human eyes. We walk by faith here as elsewhere, in this day. God's justice in His dealings with men is not on display. Illustration: A man commits murder in cold blood. He is apprehended, tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hanged. The day of execution is fixed, but in the meanwhile he gets three meals a day, as well as clothes and shelter, while multitudes walk the streets begging for work, and for bread. To a man who did not know of the action of the court, it might seem that justice had not been meted out. He might reason that the criminal did not deserve three meals a day, while others innocent of the awful crime committed by him were going hungry. But when the day of execution arrives there is a revelation of the righteous judgment of the court. The court has been just all along, but justice was not displayed until the day of execution. Knowing the decision of the court, who would envy that poor criminal his three meals a day?

Let us, in thought, set ourselves in another courtroom, and make observations. It is the courtroom of heaven. The thrice holy God sits on the throne. Every man, from Adam to the last person ever to be born, is a prisoner at the bar, charged with rebellion against God. The omniscience of God testifies to our guilt; for the eyes of the Lord are in every place, etc. Justice, holiness, truth bring in the

verdict of guilty. The court fixes the penalty; eternity in a lake of fire. And the day of execution is set, but in the meantime, God sends the rain on the unjust, and through the reign of providence may grant much temporal prosperity. Who would envy the wicked their eating and merry-making?

DAY OF CHRIST'S RETURN

The day of wrath is the day of Christ's return. II Thessalonians 1:5, "*Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?*" Psalm 50:3, "*Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.*" There are many events connected with the coming of Christ the second time. But it means only one thing to the unbeliever; punishment and consignment to the lake of fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

SOURCE OF PUNISHMENT

The source of punishment is from the Lord. Jesus Christ will inflict this punishment. Revelation 6:16, 17, "*And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*" II Thessalonians 1:9, "*Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.*"

DAY OF JUDGMENT

This day of judgment is for these under law. It is not for everybody. Believers in Christ will have no place in that judgment, because they are not under law, but under grace. Believers are those who have already taken the place of - sinners, and trusted Christ for salvation. To them the law is nothing more than a discharged revolver, every bullet having been fired, by the hand of justice, into the precious body of Christ. To believers the law is an empty quiver, every arrow having pierced the body of their Saviour. This judgment is according to strict justice. Acts 17:31, *“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.”* Do you want to be in it? There is but one way to escape. ***“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”***