

## **Acts 10:34-43 (BCF 37) “Judge of the Living and the Dead”**

**For the Children:** When I was a student, I didn't always study as hard as I should have. I didn't enjoy the hard work of study. Nor did I look forward to graduation day – to standing in front of everyone and receiving a bit of paper that said I had passed. But after it was over, I very glad I had graduated. The thought of Judgement Day might seem a little bit scary to us as well. But it will be a great Day! When we are there, we will be glad and joyful. We will have a better understanding of what it means to be saved by the Lord Jesus. It is important that we tell others about that truth as well. **Questions:** Why should we tell others about the Final Judgement? What will happen to the wicked on that Day? What will happen to God's children?

---

### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: Christ's Work Witnessed**

- 1) His Work on Earth: The apostle summarizes Jesus' work, from His baptism to His resurrection. The audience knew some of these details as well (v. 37). Mentioning Jesus' anointing at His baptism would have reminded them of OT passages like Is. 11:1f, 42:1 and 61:1f – which spoke of the coming Messiah. Mention of His ministry to the afflicted (v. 38) ties in with this, since these OT verses foretold that the Messiah would bring justice, freedom, help to such people. The OT also predicted His death in a shameful manner (Is. 53). But Peter shows that His suffering was due to our sins, not His own – hence God exalted Him by raising Him from the dead – also foretold by the prophets e.g. Is. 53:10-12.
- 2) The Apostolic Witness: The witness of God to these things – in His Word – is the chief witness. But God also chose many human eye-witnesses to the fact that these OT prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus. They even ate and drank with Him after His resurrection. In another sense, they are witnesses to the final judgement as well – not eye-witnesses, but witnesses to the fact that Jesus told them He was appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. This, too, was Messiah's task (Is. 61:2).

#### **Second Point: Christ's Judging Preached**

- 1) A Message Ordered: Preaching about the final judgement is not an option. The Lord “ordered” it as a “solemn testimony” (v. 42) – a message that heralds must pass on in the King's Name. The fire of judgement is also foretold in the OT (Dan. 7; Mal. 4). It is a solemn truth that all men will be judged, for every thought, word and deed; the “books will be opened” – all will be laid bare (Dan. 7:10, Rev. 20:12, BCF 37); and those apart from Christ will be “tormented in eternal fire” (Rev. 15:4, 18:20).
- 2) Why It Should Be Preached: These truths should be preached not only because the Lord commanded it, but also because it shows His glory as the Great King who silences all opposition to His rule. Moreover, it is a warning that sinners need to hear for their sakes. It is also tied up with the vindication of His people and bringing justice to those who have persecuted them. It is therefore connected to the Gospel of salvation.

#### **Third Point: Christ's Peace Promised**

- 1) The Promise of Forgiveness: The accounts of NT sermons mention the outcome of Christ's work, the forgiveness of sins, even more often than they speak of judgement. The promise of peace with God through the Messiah was already foreshadowed in the OT – in the sacrificial system and in passages like Is. 53.
- 2) To All the Nations: Moreover, the OT foretold that the nations would experience this peace as well (Is. 66:18f, Amos 9:12, Ps. 22:27-28). Peter discovered that this prophecy was being fulfilled, when God called him to meet with Cornelius. He realizes that God does not show ethnic “partiality” (vss. 34-35). For Christ is “Lord of *all*” (v. 36). Everyone who believes in Him will be saved (v.43).
- 3) An Ardent Desire for the Day: As a result of that salvation, all who believe can – and should – look forward eagerly to the Last Day. For then we will see the full outworking of Christ's work for us; receive a crown of glory, with Christ confessing us as we have Him; receive gracious rewards for our labours; see an end to all misery; and receive back our bodies in a glorified state. Hence the cry of Rev. 22:21.

### **Conclusion:**