

What Will You Do With Jesus?

Matthew 27:22

In Matthew chapter 27, we have the account of the Lord Jesus standing before Pontius Pilate. And you remember, during the course of the trial, Pilate asked the question, what then shall I do with Jesus, who is called the Christ? Now those who were present on that occasion, what they wanted was for him to be crucified. In our lesson today, I want to ask you this question what will you do with Jesus?

You know, there are a lot of very powerful and profound questions that we might have to answer in life, but I can't think of a more powerful question than, what will you do with Jesus? Because when it's all said and done, what we do with Jesus will impact where we spend eternity. And to understand that the Lord, his desire is that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Peter said, and Second Peter chapter three, that God is not willing, that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. So let's circle back again and ask the question, what will you do with Jesus? Profound? Yes. Personal without question. So in asking the question, what will you do with Jesus? There are only really two possibilities. On the one hand, we could be receptive to the overtures of the Lord.

Or the other hand, we could reject the overtures of the Lord. So what will you do with Jesus? I want to begin our study today by maybe talking for a moment or two about the finished work of the cross. Did you know that when Jesus came to earth, that God had you in mind in sending His Son to the cross?

Because, you see, Jesus was and is the answer to the problem of sin. In Genesis chapter three, after Adam and Eve had transgressed the command of God, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We understand the implications of that. And yet in Genesis chapter three, verse 15, Moses records for us the promised seed.

The promised seed was God's response to the fact that mankind had sinned and thus stood in need of redemption. That's why in first Timothy chapter two, Paul said that there is one person who mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. And Paul said he gave himself a ransom for all. God the father was the architect of the redemptive plan.

In other words, he was the one that drew the plan up. Jesus was the agent by which that plan was brought to fruition. The Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is the one who has revealed and recorded this plan for us in book form, but is through Scripture. So when we talk about God and the fact that he spared not his own son, but freely gave him up for us all, that says something about his divine love for us.

You know, there are people today. They have this idea that they are unloved, uncared for, unwanted. It might be the case that from a physical standpoint, they are unloved. They are unwanted. But I can tell you this from God's perspective. He will always love you over and over again. The Bible speaks of the great love of God. We might say it like this.

The backdrop to the redemptive plan was God's love, mercy, and grace. In Genesis chapter six verse eight, the Bible tells us that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. To my knowledge, that's the first time the term grace is explicitly used in Scripture. But that's not the first time God demonstrated grace to the human family. No, that occurred back in Genesis chapter three.

When man sinned in the garden and thus God exercised grace to fallen humanity. Now the Bible tells us that the grace of God spared. Listen to what Paul said bringing salvation to every man. God, in his rich mercy and grace, has made it possible for us to enjoy a relationship with him. Now, I mentioned a moment ago something about the finished work of Christ.

To understand that Jesus went to the cross, shed his blood, and through the shedding of his blood has made it possible for me to enjoy salvation from sin. The angel and the long ago announced to Joseph in a dream that that which had been conceived in Mary was of the Holy Spirit. And he said, she shall bring forth a son.

His name will be called Jesus, and he will save his people from their sins. God, in his rich mercy, grace, and love, sent His Son to tabernacle in human flesh to die for my sins and your sins. Now we're asking the question, what will you do with Jesus? And really, our first point really revolves around that question what will you do with Jesus?

Now, again, there's nothing that you or I can do to contribute to the finished work of the cross. Remember in John chapter 17, Jesus said, in the shadow of the cross, he said, I've glorified you on earth. I've finished the work which you've given me to do. The Bible tells us that while on the cross Jesus said, it is finished.

Jesus was willing to come to earth, tabernacle and human flesh, live among men, be crucified for the sins of the world, so that we might enjoy the blessings of forgiveness. Peter said in verse Peter chapter three, verse 18, that Christ also once suffered for sin, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the spirit.

Now Peter said that Jesus was the just one, and Jesus died for the unjust. That'd be us. So what then, would I have to do to enjoy a relationship with the Lord? Now I sit a minute ago. There's nothing that we can do to contribute to the finished work of the cross. But the idea that we don't have to do anything to appropriate those blessings that's not found in Scripture.

No. We could go back and look at the second chapter of the book of acts. And on that occasion, you remember Peter and the apostles are preaching the very first gospel sermon in all of its fullness. Everything up to acts two is pointing to the establishment of the church that Jesus promised to build. Isaiah the prophet said that the church or the house of the Lord, that it would be comprised of all nations, all people.

Daniel said that the church would be an eternal kingdom. It never be destroyed. So in the second chapter of the book of Acts, we have Peter and the apostles preaching the gospel, and they're talking about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and how the Lord Jesus has been raised from the dead. He is ascended to heaven. He is seated at the father's right hand.

He wields all authority, and at the father's right hand he's sitting upon a spiritual throne, the throne of David. Now it's in that context that Peter said, let all the house, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that this Jesus whom you crucified, God's made both Lord and Christ. Now Luke tells us in verse 37 that those who were present on Pentecost day in Jerusalem, they wanted to know because they had been cut to the heart, pricked in their heart, that is convicted of sin.

They wanted to know, men and brethren, what shall we do? Now that being the case, here's what we want to ask. What did Peter and the apostles tell those people on Pentecost day, 2000 years ago, to do about their sin problem? Well, number one, they already believed in

the Lord Jesus because Peter had already pointed out that they were well aware of Jesus and they knew of his miracles, wonders, and signs which he had done among them, as Peter said in your midst.

And they had taken him, and by lawless hands had put him to death. So they knew exactly who Jesus was. They were aware of the miracles that he performed. They all are wonder that those miracles produced in the minds of those who saw what was occurring. And so, in light of that, they want to know what shall we do now?

Listen to what an inspired apostle or the inspired apostle said to do on that day. Bear in mind, back in acts chapter two at verse four, the Bible says that they began to speak. That is, the apostles began to speak in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance. Now they had been commanded to tarry in Jerusalem until unto with power from on high.

According to Luke chapter 24, verse 49, in acts one, Jesus had said to the apostles before ascending to heaven that they would receive power and would be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, to the end of the earth. So in acts chapter two, what do we have? The apostles receiving the baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit, and now they are God's inspired spokesmen, and they are endowed with the Holy Spirit.

And they're directed to tell people exactly what to do. Well, what was that? Peter said, number one, you need to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Now let's just pause there for a moment or two. What then, did the inspired apostles tell those on Pentecost day that they needed to do, that they must do in order to rectify their sinful condition?

Well, they needed number one to repent. They already believed in the Lord, as we've already noted, but they were told to repent. Repentance is a change of mind, followed by a change in actions. So they were told to repent and be baptized. Well, what was the authority behind the message? You remember back in Matthew chapter 16, when Jesus said to Peter that he would be given the keys of the kingdom of heaven?

In Matthew chapter 18, verse 18, all the apostles had the keys to the kingdom. And so on Pentecost day, what they did, they took the keys of the kingdom, unlocked the doors into the kingdom of God by legislating terms of admission into that divine body. Well, what were those terms? Repent. Be baptized. Now listen to what Peter said in the name of Jesus Christ.

That is, you need to repent and be baptized. And this is based upon the authoritative Word of Jesus. Now when somebody comes along and says, you know, I don't really think I need to be baptized, or when those who are in the religious world say, baptism is not necessary for salvation. Well, they need to take that up with the Lord.

Because based upon the teaching of the apostles in the first century, baptism is absolutely mandatory for the remission of sins. Now, I said a minute ago, there is no way that we can contribute to the finished work of Christ on Calvary, but to have the idea that there's nothing that we have to do to appropriate the benefits and blessings of the blood of Jesus.

Well, that's not biblical, because on Pentecost day, when they wanted to know men and brethren, what shall we do if there was nothing to be done, why didn't Peter the apostles ask the question, where do you ever get the idea? You've got to do something. Who told you that? No. They said to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

Now listen to Jesus. Jesus said prior to ascending to heaven, he instructed the apostles to

go into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature. He said, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Now the word and there is a is a coordinating conjunction. And what Jesus is saying is that belief and baptism is necessary for salvation.

What Peter said was repentance and baptism are necessary for the remission of sins. Now once we do that, the Bible says that God adds us to the church. That is his divine body. I don't join the church. I don't have to be voted into the church. No, the Lord adds me to the church. Look at acts chapter two.

Again, the Bible says that those who gladly received his word were baptized that day. About 3000 souls added to them in verse 47. Luke tells us that the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. That is when they obeyed the gospel. God added them to the church. Now let's just back up for a minute.

I said a moment ago that the backdrop to God's redemptive plan was his mercy, love, and grace. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. The Bible says in verse John four verse eight, God is love. And John said here in his love, not that we love God, but that he loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

John would say in first John chapter four verse 14, we have seen and testified, the father sent the son to be Savior of the world. Jesus came to save us from sin. But in order to enjoy the benefits and blessings of salvation, then we have to comply with the teaching of God. Now we talk about the love of God.

The Bible says in Ephesians chapter two at verse four, But God, who is rich in mercy for the great love wherewith he loved us. God's tender mercy, his rich mercy, his great love, and his grace. God, who is rich in mercy for the great love, for with he loved us even when we were dead in sins, made us alive together with Christ by grace.

Are you saved? Now let's just talk for a moment about grace. Could I ask this question? Where is God's grace located? Once I get him of the chapter two, verse one, the Bible says, God's grace is located in Christ. In that same chapter in verse ten. Paul said that salvation is also located in one place that's in Christ.

So God's grace where Christ in Christ, salvation located where in Christ. So here's the question. If God's grace is in Christ, salvation is in Christ. How do I get into Christ? Well, the Bible doesn't leave us wondering. No, the Bible tells us that when we obey the gospel, we contact salvation, God's grace, and we become the recipients of the blood of Jesus.

Well, what then? What then would that entail? Now let's just think for a moment. Jesus shed his blood in death. Remember, that's what John said. That soldier pierced the sight of Christ. Blood and water came out. Well, if we want to enjoy the precious blood of Christ in our life, then wouldn't it stand to reason? We would need to go where it was shed?

And where was that in death? So Paul said in Romans chapter six, verse three, no, you're not that. All we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. When I'm baptized into Christ, I'm baptized into the death of Christ. It is there that I appropriate the blood of Christ. God's grace located where in Christ salvation.

Where in Christ his divine blood resides. Where in Christ? In Ephesians one seven Paul said In him that's in Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace. Now I can't be saved, separate and apart from God's grace and mercy. But in order to appropriate those benefits and blessings, I've got to go

where the blood was shed.

That's in death. So when I'm baptized into Christ, what then washes away my sins? The water? Not at all. No, it's the blood of Christ. But baptism. That is the door that leads to all these great blessings. Now, it requires faith on my part that I believe that God will do exactly what he said. Well, what's that then?

If I repent and in baptized into Christ, I'll enjoy the forgiveness of sins. I'll enjoy salvation. Mark 16:16 I will enjoy the washing away of my sins. Acts 22, verse 16 I'll be added to the church, and the church is the blood body of Christ. And the Bible says that the church will be saved by the Lord on that great and final day.

Because in Ephesians 5:23 Paul said, he's the Savior of the body. Well, what's the body? He's the head of the body of the church. Colossians 1:18. How many bodies are there? There's just one body. Ephesians four at verse four. So when I obey the gospel, eye contact, those blessings. Now I want to ask you a question. What will you do with Jesus?

Oh, I know that there are a lot of people in the world today. They will minimize the idea of being baptized into Christ, and they'll tell you right up front, you don't have to be baptized into Christ. So here's my question who are you going to believe? Are you going to believe Jesus? He had all authority in Matthew 28:18 And God the Father said, hear him.

Matthew 17:5. Will you put your faith in trust in what Peter said to repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins? Will you do that? Do you have faith in what Peter said? He was an inspired spokesman. All of the apostles were in Acts 2:42. The Bible says they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, their teaching.

Do you believe what Peter said? Do you believe what Paul said in recounting his conversion? That he was instructed to arise and be baptized, and wash away his sins, calling on the name of the Lord? So when closing out this one point, I want to ask you, what will you do with Jesus? But there's a second question, and this question is of great importance.

Now it's one thing to ask the question, what will you do with Jesus? But I want to ask, what will Jesus do with you? Did you know that one day you're going to stand before the Lord Jesus? The Bible tells us that there is coming a terminal day in the history of mankind. Jesus in John chapter six speaks of the last day.

The last day is the terminal day in the history of the world as we know it. Well, when will that happen? I don't know. I know Jesus said of that day and hour knoweth no man, not the angels of heaven, but my father. Only Peter said that Jesus will come as a thief in the night. When he comes.

He said, the heavens will pass away with a great noise. The elements will melt with fervent heat, and the earth and the works therein will be burned up. So the world as we know it is going to be destroyed. Now when Jesus comes again. Now Paul said in verse Thessalonians chapter four, Jesus will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise.

So now we're talking about the Lord Jesus coming. Now, I've never heard the voice of the archangel. I've never heard the trumpet of God. But I know this. There's coming a day in which I will. If I'm alive when Jesus comes, then so be it. If I'm dead, I'll hear that great trumpet. And I will arise. Now the Lord Jesus is coming.

And when he comes, he said in Matthew chapter 25, he's going to come with all his holy angels, and he'll be seated upon the throne of his glory. And he said in that context that

all nations would be brought before him. Paul said in acts chapter 17 that the times of ignorance God winked at, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.

Why, Paul? Well, because he's appointed a day in which he'll judge the world in righteousness. You see, there's coming a day of judgment. When the Lord Jesus comes, he's going to be seated upon the throne of judgment. And as he said, all nations are going to be gathered before him. As Paul said, the world will be there. That means you'll be there.

I'll be there. We will all be there. No exceptions. That might be the case. You've got a doctor's appointment this week, and you call and cancel your appointment. It might be that you have some very important strategic meeting concerning your job. And because of illness, sickness, or whatever you call and cancel that meeting. Well, that's not going to happen on that day.

No, we'll all stand before the Lord. John said, I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and he said the books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. Could I ask you? Is your name in the Lamb's Book of Life? If you haven't obeyed the gospel. Could I say to you, your name is not in the Lamb's Book of Life, and you have no hope beyond this life.

Now, I said earlier in our study, there are two possibilities. When we ask the question, what will you do with Jesus? You can either be receptive or you can. Rejecting the choice is yours. But when you make that choice, whatever the consequences are, those consequences will be in play in eternity. So if you say no to the Lord Jesus Christ, you need to understand.

The Hebrew writer said, it is appointed unto man wants to die. After this comes what the judgment. Can you imagine standing face to face with the Son of God? We are standing before the great. I am the second member of the Godhead. And on that great and final day, the Lord is going to open His word, and he's going to judge us based upon what has been recorded in this book.

Will it matter whether or not I whether or not I was receptive to the teaching of the Lord and whether or not I rejected it? Well, if I want to go to heaven, if I want to go to heaven, I better make sure that my life is on the right track, that I'm following the Lord. Because, you see, one day the question is not going to be, what will you do with Jesus?

The question will be, what will Jesus do with you? Now in Matthew chapter 25, Jesus talks about that great and final day. And he said, he'll say to those on the right hand, come, you blessed to my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. In that same chapter, Jesus is pictured as saying, well done, good and faithful servant.

But in Matthew 25, verse 41, Jesus said that those who are standing on his left hand, he's going to turn to them, and he's going to say, depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Now I want to draw. I want to just stop here for a minute and drive a peg down.

And I want us to understand that in many ways we have this idea that, you know, hell, that hell is not a reality. Let me tell you what heaven and hell are realities. Jesus talked about both. And if our lives are not what they ought to be. Jesus said hell wasn't prepared for us. It was prepared for the devil and his angels.

But we will be in eternity in a place where Jesus said, the worm does not. The fire is not quenched. It is a place of everlasting darkness. It is a place where people. Well, we might say they live and never die. And I never live. You don't want to go to hell. Oh, I know

there are people that say, well, I'll just go and take it.

No, you won't take it. You remember the rich man in Luke 16 lifted up his eye and eyes in torment. He was in agony and pain, and he wanted just a drop of water. Do you imagine losing your soul, standing before God? You had time and opportunity to make things right. You could have obeyed the gospel. You could be living a faithful life.

And you said no. Oh, maybe you said, you know, down the road I'm going to get things right. You didn't. You never imagined you'd have a heart attack or stroke or car accident, or you never imagined the Lord would come. And here you are, face to face with the Lord. So in closing, I ask you two questions. Number one, what will you do with Jesus?

And number two, what will Jesus do with you? God bless.