

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
December 8, 2024

*"And He said to him, 'Truly I say to you, today
ou shall be with Me in Paradise.'" – Luke 23:43*



trinityreformedct.org

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Job 19:23-27

Leader: Oh that my words were written!

People: Oh that they were inscribed in a book!

Leader: That with an iron stylus and lead

People: They were engraved in the rock forever!

Leader: As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,

People: And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

Leader: Even after my skin is destroyed,

People: Yet from my flesh I shall see God;

Leader: Whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another.

People: My heart faints within me!

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Philippians 3:20-21

***Hymn #200** (red hymnal) – “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Scripture Reading – Luke 23:38-43; 2Corinthians 5:1-10

Ancient Creedal Reading – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #218** (red hymnal) – “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Savoy Declaration, Chapter 32 – Of the Last Judgment

1. God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, (Acts 17:31) to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. (John 5:22,27) In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, (1Cor 6:3; Jude 6; 2Pet 2:4) but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil. (2Cor 5:1; Eccl 12:14; Rom 2:16; 14:10,12; Matt 12:36-37)

2. The end of God's appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of His justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord: but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. (Matt 25:31-46; Rom 2:5-6; 9:22-23; Matt 25:21; Acts 3:19; 2Thes 1:7-10)

3. As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity: (2Pet 3:11,14; 2Cor 5:10-11; 2Thes 1:5-7; Luke 21:27-28; Rom 8:23-25) so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen. (Matt 24:36,42-44; Mark 13:35-37; Luke 12:35-36; Rev 22:20)

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Ecclesiastes 12:7

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “Last Things”

(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

***Hymn #207** (red hymnal) – “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

All are welcome for Fellowship & Food downstairs after Worship

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – Phone: (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – Email: trinityreformedct@gmail.com

Announcements

- Many thanks to all who helped out, and attended, our 2nd Annual Calvinist Christmas Party, especially Verna & Cindy. It was a very enjoyable evening.
- There will be **no Sunday School** on **December 29th** and **January 5th**. Church will start at the usual 10:30 AM and there will be Coffee Hour.
- Schedule for Pastor Doug's studies:
 - Tuesday:* Will meet this Tuesday, Dec 10th for the last class of the year. It will return on January 14th.
 - Wednesday:* Is done for the year. It will return on January 15th.
 - YADG:* Next YADG is January 17th.
- Pastor Doug will be on vacation from December 23rd through January 6th.

Regular Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i>	9:00 – c.10:00 AM	Sunday School Children's curriculum: KVB Publications Women's Study: Baucham's <u>Expository Apologetics</u> Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism
	10:30 – c.11:40 AM c.11:40 AM	Worship (Lord's Supper on the 1 st Sunday of the month) Coffee Hour Fellowship
<i>Tuesday</i>	10:30 AM – Noon	Tuesday Study (Evangelism in Acts) at Pastor Doug's house
<i>Wednesday</i>	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Wednesday Study (on Exodus) at Pastor Doug's house
<i>Friday</i>	6:30 - ??? PM	Young Adult Discussion Group at Pastor Doug's house (1 st & 3 rd Fridays)
<i>Saturday</i>	morning	Prayer Group at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

ONLINE RESOURCES

<i>TRC's Webpage:</i>	TrinityReformedCT.org
<i>TRC's Facebook Page:</i>	facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
<i>TRC's Youtube Channel:</i>	youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
<i>Pastor Doug's</i>	youtube.com/simplyreformed
<i>Youtube Channels:</i>	youtube.com/@PilgrimsOfPlunder

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: trcnwprayer@gmail.com. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

<i>Elders:</i>	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrussell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com
<i>Deacons:</i>	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
<i>Sunday School:</i>	Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell	<i>Music Coordinator:</i>	Cindy Rines
<i>Clerk:</i>	Sheryl Gabelmann	<i>Treasurer:</i>	Cindy Rines

Sermon Notes

“Last Things”

Ecclesiastes 12:7

A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7

December 8, 2024

Introduction

- 1) We are going through the Book of Revelation, chapters 4-7.
 - a) We are currently on the seven sealed scroll.
 - b) Last week we finished with the last Horseman of the Apocalypse, the one on the ashen horse, Death, who is followed by the grave.
 - c) Our next seal is the 5th Seal which gives one of the most beautiful descriptions of heaven right now.
 - d) However, before we take a detailed look at the 5th Seal, following our usual habit of expository preaching, let us for today take a step back, with a topical sermon, about the big picture of the core eschatological doctrines.
- 3) “*Theology*” is the study of God and how He relates to His creation.
 - a) Under the broad study of theology there are numerous sub-studies of theology.¹
 - b) “*Eschatology*” is a sub-study of theology that focuses on “last things.” It deals with the afterlife and the end times.
 - c) Probably no other sub-study so interests people more than eschatology.
- 4) The most famous book in the Bible that people associate with eschatology is, no doubt, Revelation.
- 5) No other sub-study of theology, or of any other book in the Bible, causes more diverging opinions than eschatology and Revelation. Some of them are reasonable things Bible believing Christians can disagree about while others are simply heresy. To list but few:
Who wrote Revelation? (John the Apostle)
When was Revelation written? (95 AD)
What is the best way to read Revelation? (Idealist Amillennialist)
Who is the 1st Horseman of the Apocalypse? (Jesus Christ)
When is the millennium? (Right now, between Christ’s two advents)
Is there a Great Tribulation in the future? (Yes)
Will the church be raptured out of the Tribulation? (No)
Is the antichrist coming soon? (No, antichrists have been here since Christ’s 1st Advent)
What about the “man of lawlessness” (That is a related but different thing)
Is there an age of accountability? (Probably not)
Do pets go to heaven? (Probably not)
Can we be cremated? (Probably you shouldn’t)
Is soul sleep biblical? (No)
Is full preterism biblical? (No)
Does purgatory exist? (No)
Should we pray for the dead? (No)
How about reincarnation? (Definitely not)

¹ To list a few theological sub-studies: **Angelology** (study of angels), **Anthropology** (theological - study of man), **Apologetics** (study on how to defend the faith), **Christology** (study of Jesus Christ), **Demonology** (study of Satan and demons), **Dogmatics** (study of the authoritative teachings of the church), **Ecclesiology** (study of the church), **Eschatology** (study of last things and the end times), **Hamartiology** (study of sin), **Hermeneutics** (study of the interpretation of the Bible), **Hymnody** (study of hymns and church music), **Liturgics** (study of worship and how it should be organized), **Missiology** (study of missions), **Pastoral Theology** (study of how to give pastoral care.), **Pneumatology** (study of the Holy Spirit), **Soteriology** (study of salvation), **Systematic Theology** (study of how doctrines come together in a coherent whole), **Theodicy** (study of God’s justice & how it relates to the problem of evil), **Theophany** (study of the appearing/revealing of God), **Theology Proper** (study of God Himself).

- 6) *Some have asked:* What is required to believe with regards to eschatology?
Or: What are the minimal core doctrines I have to believe in?
- a) Great question!
 - i) Unless by “minimal” you want to do minimal effort in thinking about the faith.
 - ii) That would be a problem, since we all are commanded to be mature Christians, which requires we know the written Word of God and apply it. Ps 1:2; 119:1ff
Eph 4:11-13
Heb 5:11-6:2
 - b) There is a fundamental core of basic doctrines about eschatology that are clearly taught in the Bible, have been taught by the church throughout the ages and direct our attention to the most important things.
 - c) Probably, the greatest, most succinct list of these doctrines is the last two chapters of our Savoy Declaration (same as the Westminster Confession.) [See appendix.]
- 7) So, for today, let’s do a topical sermon about these things.

The Primary Core Biblical Eschatological Doctrines – Last Things

- 1) **When we die our body returns to dust and undergoes decay.** Gen 3:19; Acts 13:36
 - a) Our souls do not decay but return to God. Luke 23:43; Eccl 12:7
 - i) Thus, our sermon text teaches that with death (v.6) *“then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”* – Ecclesiastes 12:7
 - ii) Remember from Genesis, Adam, the first man’s body, was created from the *“dust of the ground”*, however, he didn’t become a *“living being”* (literally *“a living soul”*) until God breathed life into Adam (i.e. gave His Holy Spirit) Gen 2:7
 - b) The souls of the wicked are cast into hell where they are in torment. Luke 16:23-24
Acts 1:25; Jude 6-7
 - c) The souls of the righteous are received into heaven where they consciously experience the joy and rest of being with God. Acts 3:21; 2Cor 5:1,6,8;
Eph 4:10; Phil 1:23;
Heb 12:23; Rev 6:9-11
 - i) Think of that beautiful promise given to the repentant thief on the cross by our Lord: *“And He said to him, ‘Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.’”* - Luke 23:43
 - ii) “Today”, this is not a future promise. If we die in Christ we go to heaven, right now.
 - iii) To be with Christ in Paradise is not sleeping but certainly is restful! (Rest from the toils of this fallen world and our sinful condition!)
 - d) These are the only two options.
 - i) There is no second chance, no reincarnation, no annihilation (of the soul), no purgatory, no soul sleep, there are no ghosts, etc.
 - ii) There is either hell or heaven.
- 2) **Sometime in the future, this age will end with Christ’s dramatic return in power and glory to judge all of creation.** Matt 25:31ff; John 5:22,27
Acts 17:31; Rev 20:11-13
 - a) No one knows when this will happen. Matt 24:36,42-44; Mark 13:35-37;
Luke 12:35–36; Rev 22:20

b) All will be judged by Christ.

- i) As Scripture teaches: *“For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.”* – Romans 14:9
- ii) Satan and the fallen angels (i.e. demons) will be judged. Matt 8:29; 1Cor 6:3;
Jude 6; 2Pet 2:4
- iii) Those humans alive at Christ’s return shall not die but will be changed to be judged. 1Cor 15:51-52
1Thes 4:17
 - These are the *“quick”* from the line *“the quick and the dead”* in the old English version of the Apostles Creed.
 - Or, using the modern version, we say every Sunday: *“The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.”*
 - The best book that describes this heavenly ruling and future return? Revelation!
- iv) All the dead throughout history will have their souls reunited with their raised up bodies to be judged. Job 19:26-27; John 5:28-29;
Acts 24:15; 1Cor 15:42-44;
Rev 20:12
- v) Then all humanity who ever existed will give an account of all their thoughts, words and deeds before Christ. Eccl 12:14; Matt 12:36-37;
Rom 2:16; 14:10,12;
2Cor 5:10
- c) The wicked (Satan, demons, unrighteous humans, sin, death, etc.) will be cast into the lake of fire and eternally destroyed (i.e. have eternal existence of being destroyed) away from the presence of the Lord. Matt 25:41-46;
Rom 2:5-6; 9:22;
2Thes 1:7-9;
Rev 19:20; 20:10,14-15; 21:8
- d) The righteous, with their new perfect resurrected bodies, will go into the perfect eternal new heavens and new earth, where there is no sin or sorrow, to dwell directly with the Lord forever knowing the eternal joy and refreshing of His presence in the new creation. Matt 25:21,34-40;
Acts 3:19;
Rom 9:23; Phil 3:21
2Thes 1:10;
Rev 21:1-4

About the Core Eschatological Doctrines

- 1) These two core doctrines (what happens to us when we die and Christ’s return at the end of the age) are required doctrines to believe to be orthodox (i.e. to have correct opinion).
- 2) To reject these core doctrines is to reject:
 - a) Basic fundamental biblical teaching,
 - b) The witness of the catholic (i.e. universal) Church,
 - c) God’s justice.
 - d) And God’s mercy in Christ’s Gospel.
- 3) True, a mature Christian will investigate the other parts of eschatology.
 - a) To have an informed opinion about things the Bible teaches. (e.g. the Great Tribulation, millennium, antichrists, etc.)
 - b) To avoid false teachings. (e.g. purgatory, reincarnation, annihilationism, justification by death – the belief people go to heaven simply because they died, etc.)

- c) To avoid vain speculation.
(e.g. trying to figure out when the end times will happen.)
- d) Also, to major in majors, and not major in the minors, when it comes to theology.
(e.g. to focus on God's sovereignty, God's justice, Christ's gospel, etc.)

Questions about the Last Things

- 1) Many questions come to mind, so let us answer a few.
- 2) First, two questions everyone should ask, but because of sin, few do ask:
 - a) *Question:* Who defines who is wicked and who is righteous?
 - i) *Answer:* Obviously, God does, as defined by His revealed will as found in His Law.
(Think the Ten Commandments.)
 - ii) Because of our fallen nature, however, man defines who is righteous or not by our own standards, especially whether we like that person or not.
 - Now, it is true, family and friends are a blessing from God, and we should thank Him for such undeserved blessings. And by all means love your neighbors.
 - But to think we can decide who goes to heaven based on our personal feelings set by worldly standards shows how selfish, sinful and myopic we truly are.
 - iii) Because the truth is we all, because of our fallen nature, are not righteous.
 - As God's written word teaches: "... for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks (i.e. everyone) are all under sin; as it is written (Ps 14:1-3; 53:1-3), 'There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one.' – Romans 3:9b-12
 - This should lead to the most important question:
 - b) *Question:* How are we *made* righteous?
 - i) Note that "*made*" righteous. We can't do it because we, in our fallen state, are dead in sin, an enemy of God and a child of Satan. Eph 2:1-3
 - ii) For man this is impossible but not with God. Matt 19:26
 - iii) *The Answer:* "*the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace . . . For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith.'* (Hab 2:4)"
– Romans 1:1b-5a,16-17
- 3) Keep this in mind as we ponder more common, worldly, questions:
 - a) *Question:* How can a good and just God have hell exist?
 - i) *Answer:* Because God is good and just.
 - Only an evil and corrupt judge lets the wicked go free.
 - A good and just judge condemns the wicked.

- ii) The mystery isn't hell but it is shocking that any get into heaven.
- iii) The question assumes humans are not sinful and that God is not holy.
(The most common mistake that unbelievers, and many believers, make.)
- iv) The only way God can save, and remain good and just, is through a Redeemer who is fully God (only God can withstand God's just wrath), fully man (since He is taking on mankind's sin) and without sin (because He has to be the perfect sacrifice).
- This what makes Christianity different from all other religions and philosophies which are clearly man-made and focus on man saving himself.
 - Understanding this is one of the greatest things to know to keep us faithful and to live the Christian life.
 - How did Peter put it? *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."*
– John 6:68b-69
- b) *Question:* Isn't it arbitrary of God to have a "good" Presbyterian go to heaven and a "good" Buddhist go to hell? Or how about the "good" pagan on the desert island who never had a "chance" to hear about the Gospel? What about my loved one who died who I am not sure had faith when they died?
- i) *Answer:* Notice what you are doing there again: Forgetting about sin.
- No one deserves salvation, that is solely up to God.
 - One goes to hell not because of a bad denominational choice but because we, by our fallen nature, hate God and love our sin.
 - You doubt this? Start talking to an unbeliever about the beauty of God's Law, the glories of salvation solely in Christ, and how amazing it will be to worship God for all eternity, and watch their reaction.
- ii) The Bible is very clear:
- Salvation is only through Jesus Christ. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1Tim 2:5
 - Salvation is solely an act of God. Matt 19:26; Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5
- iii) Beyond these two clear teachings the Bible remains silent about all those "what about this person" questions.
- This means we have to trust in our heavenly Father, which is always a good thing.
 - And it helps by giving the saints the desire to proclaim Christ.
- c) *Question:* Why is hell forever?
- i) *Answer:* Because man was created to last forever. Gen 1:27; Eccl 3:11
- ii) And the damned continue to sin in hell because there is no repentance.
- iii) Hell is shut from the inside as the reprobate cry out their hatred of God for all eternity, thus the famous line about hell, it is a place of *"weeping and gnashing of teeth."* Matt 8:12; 13:42,50;
Matt 22:13; 24:51;
Matt 25:30;
Luke 13:28
- d) *Question:* So, are there "two stages" to heaven and hell? A spiritual one right now and then a physical one in the new heavens and new earth at the end of the age?
- i) *Answer:* Yes.
- ii) Though "stages" is not a biblical term.

- e) *Question:* But I thought God in heaven is outside of time and space, how can we go to heaven right now and yet there still be a future?
- i) *Answer:* I have no clue. I don't understand the physics of heaven.
Which is beyond our fallen minds to grasp.
(Try to imagine a place without sin.)
- ii) We can only go with Scripture.
- iii) Remember Deuteronomy 29:29 – *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”*
- f) *Question:* Do we remember this life in heaven?
- i) *Answer:* I don't know, I go back and forth on this one.
- ii) I would argue that the change from our mother's womb to this life is not as great as the change from this life to the one to come. Rom 15:50ff
- iii) Also, we will fully be in the presence of God and that changes everything, especially our perspective. Remember Job. Matt 22:30; 1Cor 13:12; 1John 3:2; Job 42:5-6
- g) *Question:* What is heaven like, right now?
- i) Great question.
- ii) One of the best texts about this is Revelation 6:9-11, which is next weeks' sermon.

Conclusion

- 1) The great creeds of the church help us to know what is essential to believe in with regards to eschatology.
- 2) Not just to be orthodox but what we should focus on.
 - a) Yes, we should wrestle with all of what Scripture teaches.
 - b) However, do not major in the minors. Do not, *“strain out a gnat and swallow a camel.”*
– Matthew 23:24b
 - c) All too often eschatology is more about tickling our worldly imaginations.
- 3) The Ancient Creeds (Apostles, Nicene, Athanasius) focus on sub-studies of **theology proper** (the doctrines about God) and **Christology** (about Christ) and those are certainly good things to focus on, remember the focus of the first commandments.
- 4) Our Savoy Declaration of Faith ends with a focus on God and the doctrine of **sanctification** (our current call to lives of holiness, dying to sin and living for Christ.)

As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity: (2Pet 3:11,14; 2Cor 5:10-11; 2Thes 1:5-7; Luke 21:27-28; Rom 8:23-25) so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen. (Matt 24:36,42-44; Mark 13:35-37; Luke 12:35-36; Rev 22:20)

Appendix – “Savoy Declaration of Faith” on Last Things

Chap. 31 – Of the State of Man after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead.

1. The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption; (Gen 3:19; Acts 13:36) but their souls (which neither die nor sleep) having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. (Luke 23:43; Eccl 12:7) The souls of the righteous being then made perfect in holiness are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. (Heb 12:23; 2Cor 5:1,6,8; Phil 1:23; Acts 3:21; Eph 4:10) And the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day: (Luke 16:23-24; Acts 1:25; Jude 6-7; 1Pet 3:19) Besides these two places for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledges none.

2. At the last day such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed; (1Thes 4:17; 1Cor 15:51-52) and all the dead shall be raised up with the self-same bodies, and none other, although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever. (Job 19:26-27; 1Cor 15:42-44)

3. The bodies of the unjust shall by the power of Christ be raised to dishonor; the bodies of the just, by His Spirit unto honor, and to be made conformable to His own glorious body. (Acts 24:15; John 5:28-29; 1Cor 15:43; Phil 3:21)

Chapter 32 – Of the Last Judgment

1. God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, (Acts 17:31) to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. (John 5:22,27) In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, (1Cor 6:3; Jude 6; 2Pet 2:4) but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil. (2Cor 5:1; Eccl 12:14; Rom 2:16; 14:10,12; Matt 12:36-37)

2. The end of God’s appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of His justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord: but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. (Matt 25:31-46; Rom 2:5-6; 9:22-23; Matt 25:21; Acts 3:19; 2Thes 1:7-10)

3. As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity: (2Pet 3:11,14; 2Cor 5:10-11; 2Thes 1:5-7; Luke 21:27-28; Rom 8:23-25) so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen. (Matt 24:36,42-44; Mark 13:35-37; Luke 12:35-36; Rev 22:20)