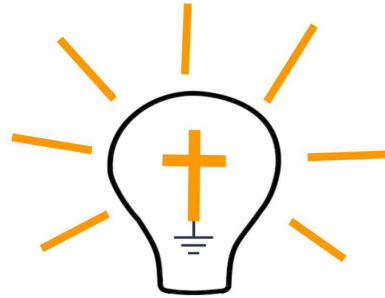


Christian Fear and Superstition: The Difference Between Being FOR God and WITH God

John He
September 13, 2024



Tri-Valley
Young Adult Ministry

www.tvya.life

DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker and may contain inaccuracies or errors. They do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Tri-Valley Chinese Bible Church. Audience members are encouraged to approach the content with discernment.

Quiz

A good-hearted Christian is very passionate about spreading the gospel because he wants people to go to heaven after they die.

Is this Christian's faith genuine or superstition?



Why Did Apostle Paul Say So?

1 Corinthians 9:16

“For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!”

Is Fear of the Final Judgment a Reason?



The Final Judgment

Matthew 25:31-46



The Sheep and the Goats

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

The Final Judgment

Matthew 25:31-46



The Sheep and the Goats

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36** I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The Final Judgment

Matthew 25:31-46



The Sheep and the Goats

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **42** For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43** I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

The Final Judgment

Matthew 25:31-46



The Sheep and the Goats

44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Final Judgment

Revelation 20:11-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

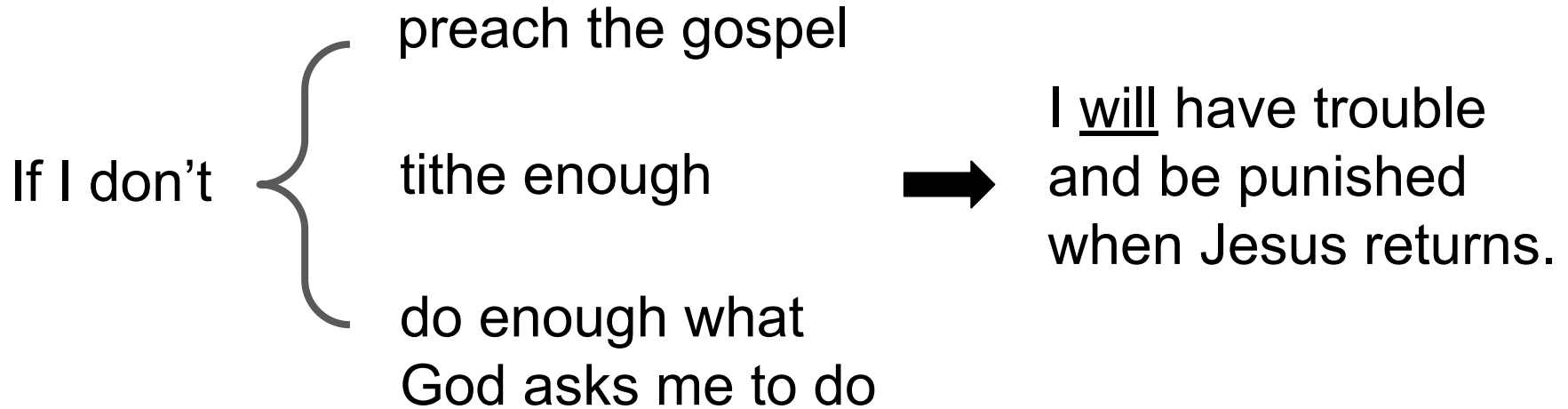
12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life.

The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. **13** The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades

gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. **14** Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake

of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. **15** Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Typical Christian Fearful Mindset



Typical Christian Fearful Mindset

这里很清楚地说是我们若不传福音，神要向我们讨那些不信的人丧命的罪。神的话没有一句落空，圣经说我们不传福音就有祸了，我们若不传福音，到耶稣再来的日子，我们必有祸（“祸”不是下地狱的意思，而是神的末日的审判）。我们要知道我们事奉的是谁，我们“当存畏惧事奉耶和華”！（诗篇 2:11）

<https://web.cclife.org/View/Article/8018>

Typical Christian Fearful Mindset

不傳福音便有禍了 -- 徐天 傳道

7/11/2021

保羅在哥林多前書9章16節說，“若不傳福音，我就有禍了。”。雖然他是在說自己，但我們都知道，這也是對所有基督徒說的。這聽上去有點嚇人，然而，事實卻是如此。“有禍了”的意思就是那些不好的事就要發生了。為什麼一個基督徒若不傳福音，不好的事就會發生在他身上呢？

首先，不傳福音的基督徒在耶穌再來的時候有禍了。 成為一名基督徒後，就自然有了基督徒的使命。我們都知道耶穌升天前給基督徒的大使命，就是，“你們要去，使萬民作我的門徒，奉父、子、聖靈的名給他們施洗。凡我所吩咐你們的，都教訓他們遵守，我就常與你們同在，直到世界的末了。”（太28:19-20）。這就是我們基督徒一生要做的事。所以我們若不傳福音，就是違背耶穌給我們的大使命，就是抗命的基督徒。將來，耶穌再來之時，我們又如何向祂交代呢？ 耶穌還認不認我們是祂的信徒呢？此禍就大了，到時候誰也救不了誰了。

<https://cerritos.fecc.us/29287241073034035441-pastors-word/4756834>

Paul's Mindset: Fear of Not Having the Blessings

- The Apostle Paul did not fear the final judgment.
- Instead, he feared missing out on the blessings of the gospel

1 Corinthians 9:23

“I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings”

Paul's Mindset: Fear of Not Having the Blessings

- Why?
 - Everything God asks us to do is for our own benefit.
 - This includes preaching the gospel, tithing, and other practices.
 - These are exercises God wants us to embrace as a way of life to help us overcome sin and be closer to Him.
 - When we are closer to God and our sin is subdued, blessings follow.
 - Otherwise, God's 'punishment' is already at work. This punishment is not reserved solely for the future or afterlife

Work For God or With God?

- The faith based on 'working for God' often leads to a fearful mindset of 'not doing enough.'
- When you do things 'for God,' you may constantly strive to impress Him, yet deep down, you know you can never do enough or do good enough.
- This ultimately leads to burnout and stagnation.
- Faith based on 'working for God' is unhealthy and may be at the borderline of superstition.

Work *For* God or *With* God?

- Faith based on 'working with God' is the right path to a genuine relationship with Him.
- True wisdom, strength, and peace come from “working with God.”

Diagnosis: *For God Vs. With God*

When you work FOR God....

- you expect accolades
- you're sad when no one notices
- you critique leaders
- you lack vision
- you view team members as means to your end
- your personal bible reading/prayer life diminishes
- your joy is based off of your performance
- you feel shame about hidden sin

When you work WITH God...

- you expect nothing
- you're pleased when no one notices work
- you see the greater vision of the small work
- you view team members as brothers/sisters, and you see their well-being as more important than the job that is to get done.
- your personal bible reading and prayer time is consistent (not necessarily flourishing)
- you are happy while exhausted
- you confess

Reality and Alert



Reality and Alert

1 Corinthians 10

1 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. **2** They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. **3** They all ate the same spiritual food **4** and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. **5** Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

The End

Thank You!