

How to Avoid God's Wrath: Part 5: Acknowledge the Lordship of Christ: S. Swartz

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Matthew 12:1-15

- Background on Lordship Salvation: When you accept Jesus as your Savior there has been teaching about the new "believer" falling into one of two groups:
 - **Carnal Christian:** these have asked Jesus to save them, but fruits of repentance are not necessary to demonstrate salvation, so a one-time profession of faith is enough, even if they continue in habitual sin. American evangelism is based upon this false teaching. This led to teachings on the "secondary work of salvation," "baptism of the Holy Spirit," and the "holiness movement." False believers don't obey the commands of Christ. Biblical counseling also seemed ineffective for those who called themselves believers but continued in a lifestyle of habitual sin.
 - Rom. 10:9 was redefined by false teachers to state that the confession of Jesus as Lord was considered a general lordship and not a specific individual requirement.
 - **Disciple of Christ:** these Christians were "on fire" for Christ. These served, gave, sacrificed, and desired to have a close walk with the Lord and keep His commands. "The Gospel According to Jesus," by John MacArthur showed plainly that Jesus is Lord and Savior, not either or. Heb. 2:1-4, salvation was first spoken by the Lord. Any other gospel was to be accursed, Gal. 1:8-9. Faith is demonstrated by works, James 2:17. If we love Jesus, we keep His commandments, John 14:15, 23-24. Those who don't love Jesus don't keep His commandments.
- **Avoid God's Wrath by Acknowledging the Lordship of Christ:**
- **3 Stages of Meaning of the Sabbath:**
 1. Sabbath was a memorial of the paradise of creation after man fell into sin: Gen. 2:1-3, God rested on the 7th day after He completed His work. Adam was not given a command to keep the Sabbath. God called the 7th day and sanctified it and set it apart for Himself.
 2. Sabbath then became a reminder of paradise lost: Ex. 16:1-6, manna is given each day, but on the 6th day a double portion is given in observance of the Sabbath, 16:23. It changes from a practice (gathering) to the Law of Israel in Exodus 20:8-11. Sabbath becomes the sign of the Law in Exodus 31:12-18. Signs of the covenant are found in the rainbow of Noah, circumcision for Abraham, and communion for NT believers. Ex. 31:17, it is a reminder of God's creation before sin.
 - a. Back to Matthew 12:1-15: 1) Jesus defends the disciples eating grain by reminding them of David and his men eating the showbread from the tabernacle (1 Sam. 21:6) because they were starving. 2) Priests had to prepare sacrifices (work) on the Sabbath to offer to God, Num. 28:9-10, thus they had to work on the Sabbath but weren't in violation of the Law for doing it.
 - b. In Lev. 25 a Sabbath year is commanded: it is a reminder of paradise lost for a whole year as a sabbath to Yahweh (Lev. 25:2).
 - c. V6, Jesus has come to fulfill the Law and to demonstrate the works of God and the preaching of the gospel to Israel. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, V8. 1) Jesus created the world and rested on the 7th day. 2) Jesus decreed Sabbath in the Law and reaffirmed 9 of the 10 commandments, except the Law of the Sabbath in the NT. V7, the Pharisees had no compassion for the hurting, only rules and man-made laws for them to keep.
 - d. Jesus goes into the synagogue and the Pharisees want to see if Jesus will heal a man with a withered hand, V10. Jesus explains that they would save a sheep that has fallen into a pit on the Sabbath. Mark's account in 3:4 adds a detail to Matt. 12:12. Jesus asks the Pharisees if it is right to do good or harm or save a life or kill? The Pharisees were plotting to kill Jesus, and was that lawful to do on the Sabbath? No.
 3. Sabbath will be fulfilled in Paradise regained by Christ and His people: Heb. 4:9-10, a Sabbath rest remains for the people of God. We have received the rest of God in Christ through no longer having to keep the Law. We are saved by grace through faith and not of ourselves, Eph. 2:8-9. We are to be diligent to enter that rest and cease from works to earn salvation, Heb. 4:11.
 - a. Jesus speaks of this rest in Matt. 11:28-30: this rest comes to those who take up His yoke.

Further Discussion and Application

Matthew 11:28-30 is the immediate context of Jesus' teaching on the Sabbath. As Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus has brought rest to the weary by giving them a burden that is easier to carry than their sin and the burden of the Law. Jesus gives a promise in V29, what is that promise? In light of Matt. 23:4, what was the result of men trying to keep the Law? How can we also distort the message of the Gospel by adding rules to salvation? Why do we do good works after salvation? See Eph. 2:10. Why does a changed life and heart result in the fruits of the Spirit? See Gal. 5:22-24.

What does sanctification accomplish in our lives? The Bible tells us that when we are born again we are a new creation, 2 Cor. 5:17. It tells us that the natural man cannot understand the things of God, 1 Cor. 2:14. Jesus prays that His disciples would be sanctified by His word which is truth, John 17:17. What are the fruits of righteousness? What Scriptures describe the life of believer no longer a slave to sin? (Col. 3:1-17., Eph. 4:17-32.) What other passages describe the new life in Christ?

Jesus provides a stark contrast in John 14 of those who love Him and those who don't. What do those that love Him do? When you consider how Jesus separates those who love Him from those who don't in V23-24, how much wiggle room do we have to argue that someone who believes in Jesus as Savior but is not yet ready to make Him Lord? What does Peter commands us to do in 2 Peter 1:10? What kind of effort is given to assure our hearts that we are in Christ from V1-9?

Titus 2:11-14 is another passage that describes the Christian life. See V11-12, what has Christ done in His coming and by giving us His word? What has He instructed us to do? How are we to live? What is sensible living? What is righteousness, equity and justice? What is godliness? What is the goal of living in this way found in V13? What is our motivation to live this way when we consider the price He paid to redeem us? Would you say from V14, that this purification is a passive or proactive change in our lives? What is our part? What is God's part? Why can we be sure that God will purify His people and prepare them for heaven? What do we say to those who continue in their sins and reject sanctification in their lives? Why is it so important to take these commands literally and seriously? What is the alternative if we don't love Christ?