

There's a Great Day Coming

Introduction:

- I. In 1887, a man named Will Thompson published a song that we all have heard several times, "There's a Great Day Coming."
 - a. I think this song contains very well what happens at Judgment and how the day will be perceived by different people involved.
 - b. There are three verses:
 - i. There's a great day coming...when the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left.
 - ii. There's a bright day coming...but its brightness shall only come to them that love the Lord.
 - iii. There's a sad day coming...when the sinner shall hear his doom, "Depart, I know ye not."

Discussion:

- I. A Great Day – When the saints and sinners are parted right and left.
 - a. This world is just full of wickedness, evil, disaster, and several other bad things that have been brought about by sin. This ruins the paradise that God intended for mankind to have.
 - b. God did not place all of this evil on earth to tempt us. He does not get joy from our suffering. We know from Jesus' ministry on earth that this is not the case.
 - i. Matthew 9:36-38 – When he saw all of their affliction, he felt pain!
 - ii. I Corinthians 10:13 – God is on our side. He wants to help us escape temptation.
 - iii. However, he cannot just remove all of it.
 1. Matthew 13:24-30
 - a. Now we must put up with the "weeds," but one day God will remove them. He will separate the harvest from the weeds, and will deal with each accordingly.
 - b. II Peter 2:9 – Peter has just dealt with three examples of God's faithful judgment – the angels, the world of Noah, and Sodom/Gomorrah – proving God's ability to "weed" his creation at the time of judgment
 - c. At judgment, all will be righted. Nothing will be lacking, and no one will be slighted.
 2. Matthew 25:31-46 – All will be gathered and the sheep will be separated from the goats. One group will be set aside for eternal reward, and the other for eternal punishment – aionios
 - a. The word for "everlasting" is the same as for "eternal." The punishment will last just as long as the reward.
 - c. This will be the culmination of God's creation. All will be restored to the way it was at first (Revelation 21-22, cf. Genesis 1-2), and we will forever be with the creator of all we know. What a great day!

- II. A Bright Day – But only for those who love the Lord.
 - a. Paul tells us about what brightness does to the world.
 - i. Ephesians 5:8-13 – The brightness will expose everything.
 - 1. All of those tempting things we gave up will be exposed for the worthlessness they are (cf. “what shall it profit a man...”).
 - 2. All of those things that made no sense before will now finally come together (cf. “Farther along, we’ll know all about it.”).
 - 3. We shall know as we are known (I John 3:2)
 - ii. Light also can be a bad thing if we are not used to it.
 - 1. Mornings, when the light switch is turned on
 - a. We do not see as well as those who are adjusted to the light.
 - i. It can hurt.
 - ii. It will expose everything around us, good or bad.
 - iii. We can get away with a lot of things while we are here on earth.
 - 1. People skimp on their taxes, drive over the speed limit, slack off at work, and it often goes unnoticed on earth!
 - a. God sees all, and at judgment, so will we.
 - b. John 3:16 is often hailed as the most loved verse of the Bible, just ahead of Psalm 23.
 - i. Many people say, “If you just believe in your heart you will be saved.” John says otherwise.
 - 1. “This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”
 - a. Whoever does evil hates the light *because* it exposes him.
 - b. Whoever does TRUTH comes to the light, *so that* it will expose him.
 - i. We must act in truth – John 17:17 – God’s word!
 - 1. Keeping the word brings us to truth, which brings us to freedom – John 8:32.
 - ii. We must live in light – I John 1:7
 - 1. If we walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth.
- III. A Sad Day – When the sinner shall hear his doom.
 - a. Matthew 7:21-23 – On that day...Judgment!
 - i. People who did good works will hear, “I never knew you.”
 - ii. People who did not do good works will hear, “As much as you did not do them for the least of these, you did not do them for me” (Matthew 25:45).
 - iii. There is only one way to avoid being sent to an eternal punishment – to do the will of the Father in Heaven!
 - 1. This means we must be extra careful! We better live on the safe side and be extra careful, so that we do not lose our salvation!
 - a. What is the *best* course of action?
 - i. Church attendance – How often?
 - ii. Bible Study – How much must I know?

- iii. This also holds true with how *serious* some sins are!
 - 1. Bad language
 - 2. Unauthorized worship – music, etc.
 - b. So if one of these things could potentially keep us from heaven, why chance it?
 - c. This has never made sense to me:
 - i. If church attendance has a deciding factor in Judgment, WHY DO PEOPLE CHOOSE NOT TO GO?
 - ii. If God’s “people are destroyed for lack of knowledge,” WHY DO PEOPLE NOT KNOW THE BIBLE?
 - iii. If Nadab and Abihu could be destroyed in their worship, WHY CHANCE DOING ANYTHING WE ARE NOT TOLD SPECIFICALLY TO DO?
- b. Scenario – We get to judgment, and we see a person arguing with God
 - i. “I didn’t know that church attendance was important!”
 - ii. “I didn’t know [X] was a biblical command!”
 - iii. “I did a lot for you on earth!”
 - 1. Matthew 7:21-23; 25:31-46
 - a. Did any of these who argued go to heaven? Did God overlook something, then realize he was wrong, or is his judgment faithful? Will God be fair in judgment?
 - i. There will be no room to argue. We better give every effort to make sure! (II Peter 1:10).