

# Faith and Works XLVII

The Contemporary and Biblical Contexts

Col. 2:8

# Judgment

Never has mankind been at the level of technological advancement in which they find themselves today. The prophets of old warned society against idolatry which they often sought when their concerns were no longer about survival, but rather how to increase their temporal pleasures and comforts.

Never has mankind been so completely dependent on the works of his own hands. Nature itself is increasingly enslaved and subdued, controlled and exploited by mammoth industries that have controlled and mass produced crops and livestock through vast industrial systems.

It will be hard for those whose identity and awareness of themselves has been defined in the expectation that the artificial system man has created and on which his very natural existence now rests.

When the foundations that man has built for himself and on which his security rests, will he be able to make a transition to an experiential foundation for himself that is unseen by the natural senses? Will he be able to hear the still small voice of the spirit amidst all the bombardment of ever increasing information that will daily assault him demanding a pragmatic solution to the building crisis?

Few of us are ready or able to supply our daily needs without reliance on the services provided by electricity and fossil fuel driven technologies such as modern agriculture and transportation of produce over vast distances. Nor are there many who will be able to go into the woods (if there are any with sufficient trees within walking distance) with an axe and create a dwelling that will provide adequate year round shelter.

At this point in the history of mankind, something very like God's judgment fitting the Biblical prophetic scenarios will likely take place regardless of whether God's hand is actively involved or not.

Worldwide, civilization has, through its dependence on technology built itself up to such an incredibly high level of sophisticated industrialization that can no longer be sustained by the limited amount of remaining available resources that it must inevitably soon come down from this high level, and when it comes down, it is not going to do so gradually, but suddenly and hard.

The damage and destruction that once required armies can now be achieved by a handful of individuals utilizing technology engineered or repurposed to produce mass destruction.

The major super powers continue to build up their military strength and capabilities and they are watching, planning and ready to take advantage of every opportunity to gain control and dominance over the dwindling remaining resources necessary to sustain their rapidly growing populations.

The final political ideology will be based on pragmatic materialism and socialism without any regard for any reference to a transcendent value system and instead will define the relevance of man based on their utility to the needs of the state to sustain itself.

Those who will be asked to make sacrifices and who may be considered expendable in the final calculations necessary to ensure the survival of the controlling elite will be many. Preliminary estimates by groups who already identify with those who will be defined as the elite, those qualified to be chosen to survive, have proposed reducing the world population by as much as two thirds the current estimated population in order to ensure enough resources for those remaining.

Mankind will have its rights and values defined by pragmatic considerations that will place above all the survival of the controlling elite and its system and methods for sustaining itself.

Those in power will see themselves as the lucky or chosen few who will benefit and survive the coming social upheaval and transformation, will gladly align themselves with that systems purposes, and have no regard for those being asked to sacrifice their lives and freedom on their behalf.

Those who continue to maintain or turn to a belief in a transcendent God who has revealed absolutes which are to be obeyed and followed even above or in contradiction to those doctrines mandated by the actions taken on behalf of the state to preserve itself will be seen as heretics.

And thus the spirit of anti-Christ will be augmented and precipitated into its final global manifestation regardless of whether one believes in a devil or not. It will be the final catastrophic events that will make its acceptance inevitable for those without the light of the knowledge of the Creator and His plan of redemption for mankind. Events will force men, who do not know God and who have no transcendent value system to make use of every available means to ensure their own survival.

In the book of Revelation, before the final events of the Tribulation period take place, we see four horsemen sent into the world. They are said in the text to represent famine, death, pestilence, and a fourth horse with a rider carrying a bow, but without arrows mentioned, that many interpret to be one who will offer a false world peace that a world made desperate by the other horseman will turn to as a means of attempting to stabilize itself in an environment of increasingly severe economic, social and natural calamities.

Today we increasingly see the modern church, which once suited the role of representing and being a witness to the world of the unseen eternal things, now

becoming pragmatic in its concerns and aligning itself with belief systems, ideologies and social movements that are simply the beginnings and foundations of the final last world system anticipated by the Biblical prophets.

The allegiance of Christians was never to be on behalf of efforts to try to redeem or sustain the fallen world, though those are not in themselves noble causes. Man was created to be a steward over God's creation.

But those redeemed by Christ, those called Christians, they were called to be salt in the Earth, as a means of preserving and forestalling the inevitable judgment. This was so the Gospel could be made available as light to a world in darkness, and as a voice calling men to repentance from dead works to turn and come into fellowship and union with a God they were born to seek, but which by their fallen nature inherited from their forefather Adam, was yet beyond them apart from being born again through a living faith in Christ.

The Christian witness was not only to be of God's grace, but also to testify of man's dire need of what God offers by His grace in Christ, who Himself is the way, truth and life, the only way to the Father. Only in Christ can man come into union with the Creator.

The true message of the Gospel is thus an offence to those dependant and relying on their own works. Jesus Christ is not a philosophy, a social movement, nor a teacher of religious practices. He is the Son of God, born according to the Law and the prophets, who died taking mankind's sin nature with Him on the cross, and who now is risen and seated at the right hand of the Creator. On His return to rule and reign every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

And only those who by faith are abiding in Him, those whose names are thus found written in the Lamb's book of life, will be able to avoid the final judgment when all of creation and all those who are still in that natural born state of being by nature children of wrath and at enmity with God will be judged.

It is when times are good, and food is plenteous, that too often the truth of God becomes a matter that one can give mental consent to, but that truth has no real meaning or significance in sustaining us in day to day life. It is usually only in those times of increasing chaos when all the temporal foundations that men would seek to build on are shaken and brought down that there is the opportunity, when man comes to the end of himself, to present the message of the Gospel and thus to point him to the beginning that God offers in Christ.

We who identify ourselves as Christians need to be a witness, not of how to make things better down here, when Jesus clearly said that in those last days we would see tribulation such as has never been seen before, when both natural and social upheaval would be increasing in frequency and magnitude, but rather, we need to be witnesses of the opportunity God offers mankind to avoid the second death.

We were never promised that this world would be restored to what it was before it was subjected to futility after man's fall from union with God. We were told there would one day be a new heavens and a new Earth. And those who participated in it will also be born again and new in Christ. That new birth in Christ is the one aspect of the Gospel that needs to be continually and consistently presented, and clearly defined, and not confused with the social gospel which simply aligns itself with the world's attempts to find pragmatic solutions based on man himself to avoid the dissolution and the shaking of the very foundations that God promised would inevitably take place in the last days.

**Daniel 12:1-3** “At that time Michael shall stand up,  
The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people;  
And there shall be a time of trouble,  
Such as never was since there was a nation,  
Even to that time.  
And at that time your people shall be delivered,  
Every one who is found written in the book.  
And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,  
Some to everlasting life,  
Some to shame and everlasting contempt.  
Those who are wise shall shine  
Like the brightness of the firmament,  
And those who turn many to righteousness  
Like the stars forever and ever.

**Hebrews 12:25-29** See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

**Romans 8:18-25** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

**Revelation 3:14-22** “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””

**Hebrews 11:8-10** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

**1 Peter 3:15** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

**Colossians 1:27** To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**Ephesians 1:15-23** Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**2 Corinthians 5: 1-8** For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

**Galatians 2:20-21** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

**Colossians 3:4** When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

**1 John 5:19-21** We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.