

"THE RIGHTEOUS SCARCELY SAVED"**Introduction**

1. One way to test ministers is by their funeral services
2. We should not gloss over unbelief – it is "untempered mortar"
3. **Illustration**: a house with a cracked wall.

1. JUDGEMENT BEGINS WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

- 1) There are two sorts of people in the world:
 - (i) God's children
 - (ii) all others. Always true
- 2) God is going to judge every person.
APPLICATION: this a great difference between the 2.
- 3) God judges the wicked at the end of time: many texts tell us this.
- 4) But the righteous are judged in this life:
 - (i) the afflictions sent on them: exx
 - (ii) the purpose: to prepare them for glory
 - (iii) "the house of God" = God's dear people
ILLUSTRATION: The Waldenses, Albigenses, Lollards.
- 5) God's discipline is his judgement to do us good and prepare us for heaven.
APPLICATION: Look on every trial in this life as Asaph came to do in Psalm 72.

2. THE RIGHTEOUS ARE SCARCELY SAVED

- 1) What this does NOT mean:
 - (i) the salvation of believers is doubtful
 - (ii) believers maybe lost
 - (iii) God might condemn them in the judgement
OBSERVE: None of this is true: TULIP

- 2) But "scarcely saved" means:
 - (i) Christians go through many trials in this life: See 1 Peter
 - (ii) This life is a place of probation for us
 - (iii) It demands a fight on our part: Ephesians 6
APPLICATION: Are you an "arm-chair" Christian?
- 3) Judgement proves what we are really:
 - (i) The parable of the sower
 - (ii) Judas Iscariot; Demas
APPLICATION: What are you and I made of? The trials of life prove what we truly are.
- 4) Spurgeon's illustration: a crippled ship.
APPLICATION: O do not give up! Go! Go on!

3. WHAT THESE THINGS MEAN FOR THE UNSAVED

- 1) This is an argument "a fortiore": exx.
- 2) What deeply challenging questions:
 - (i) "What shall the end be?"
The Christian may suffer a little now but in the end he will have eternal life. But now, what will the sinners end be?
In one word: LOSS: of his comforts / friends / hopes / God's kindness here / his soul.
 - (ii) "Where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?"
In what light will he be seen in the Great Day? Just as the Bible says: "no wedding-garment" / "wicked and slothful" / "unprofitable servant".
APPLICATION: O do not leave it too late!

CONCLUSION**Illustration**

2 elderly persons whom I used to visit:
"I do believe". Do you?"

PSALM**31: 1 – 5****37: 35 – 40****75: 5 – 10**