

May 5, 2024

## The Last Judgement – Lesson 5

This morning we will seek to answer the question: Why are our ...deeds... so important to God?

To properly answer this question, we need to remember God's purpose for **Gen. 1:26 & 28-**

*Let's Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness...God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over... every living thing that moves on the earth..."*

But why Gen. 1:26 & 28?

**Hab. 2:14** *For the earth [Rev. 21:1] will be filled [Gen.1:28] with the knowledge of the GLORY of the Lord [YHWH], as the waters cover the sea...*

This is God's unchangeable purpose to which He has committed Himself.

**Num 23:19** *God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it?*

Therefore, since Adam's sin [Gen.3:6; 1 Cor. 15:22], God has been persistently pursuing the fulfillment of His original purpose.

How will God do this?

God will be glorified by re-making [re-generating–Ez.36:26-27] His fallen people in His own image [Gen.1:26] by saving them and placing them in ...*Christ Who is the image of God* [2 Cor. 4:4]

In this way, God will glorify [Rom 8:30] us in ...*the glory of Christ* [2 Cor. 4:4].

**1 Cor. 15:49** *Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image [Gen. 1:26] of the Heavenly...*

As a result, God's purpose of being glorified in us is fulfill as we read in John 13:31, *Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him..."*

And this answers the question about the significance of our ...deeds... to God.

**Matt. 5:16** *Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works [...deeds...], and glorify your Father Who is in Heaven...*

This is the reason God has re-created us with a new heart so that our deeds will image the deeds of Jesus Himself.

Now we can see the connection of Matt. 28:18 to Gen.1:26-28

**Matt. 28:18** is Jesus' command that causes the earth to *...be filled with the knowledge of the GLORY of the Lord [YHWH], as the waters cover the sea...* in fulfillment of **Gen.1:28**, *...Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over... every living thing that moves on the earth...*

How do our deeds glorify God? The answer is found in **Rom. 8:29** - *...we have been predestined to be conformed the image of God's Son...*

In other words, the Life and character of Jesus is developed in us by the Spirit through our *...good deeds...*

Using Jesus' analogy of a farmer in Matt. 13, we are the soil of the Fathers' farm that has been redeemed by the Father's Son.

The Son has sent the Holy Spirit to cultivate us so that we will produce the fruit of Jesus' character that glorifies the Father.

Listen to how Jesus describes this work of the Holy Spirit in us:

**John 15:26-27** *When the Helper comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father... He will testify about Me, 27 and [AS A RESULT] you will testify [about Me] also...*

*...He will testify about Me...you will testify [about Me] also...*

The Holy Spirit will produce evidence in us that proves that we are God's *...image... bearers AS OUR DEEDS* are the evidence.

**Rom. 12:1-2** tells us how the Spirit is conforming us to the image of Christ:

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

The Holy Spirit is at work in us, renewing our minds so that our deeds will testify ...*that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father [Phil 2:11]*

**Is.61:3** *So [we] will be called oaks of Righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified...*

In closing, I want to remind us of the all-inclusive Fruit that glorifies God:

**John 13:34-35** *A new [creation] command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this [testimony] all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another... [Gal. 5:22-23; Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37]*

WHY? ...God is love... 1 John 4:8,16

Next week I want to speak about what we can do to reduce the number of bad deeds at the bema.