

Vessel's Of Honor
The Quick And The Dead
2 Tim 4.1-5; cf vs 1

[The title of our message today is “The Quick and the Dead.” It comes straight out of our text today. In our text God is warning Timothy, and every pastor that will follow him, to **Preach the Word**. Look at verse two,]

[2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.]

[In this context, our Heavenly Father wants men of God to **PREACH THE WORD**. To **PREACH THE WORD** when it easy and desired, and especially to **PREACH THE WORD** when its hard, convicting, reprovng, and rebuking. WHY?]

*[2 Timothy 4:3-4 ³ For the time will come when they will **not** endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, **having itching ears**; ⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.]*

[In other words, there will come a day, and now is that day, when preachers will preach for prestige, they will preach of job security, they will preach to the crowd, but they will not preach **THE WORD OF GOD**. There are those who will hold up a Bible and then tell you what you want to hear rather than what you need to hear. They are all over America and our world today.]

[They are motivational speakers, but they do not really **PREACH THE WORD OF GOD**.]

[What are you looking for when you come to Church? Are you looking for someone who will always make you feel good about yourself? Or are you looking for someone who will really **PREACH THE WORD OF GOD**. You see there is a difference.]

[Now, listen to me, you can have a preacher that will **PREACH THE WORD OF GOD**, and when its all said and done, if you need to repent and you repent, you will then certainly feel good about having a life that is forgiven and striving to be right with God. You need to first seek for someone who is going to **PREACH THE WORD OF GOD** no matter what.]

[It is impossible for a preacher to really **PREACH THE WORD OF GOD** to someone who does not really want to hear the Word Of God. The Word of God is a two edged sword and when that sword strikes you it is going to sting a little bit as it cuts away those things that are opposed to Almighty God.]

[Now listen, we have studied in the last few weeks,]

- [That there are those things that seek to Overthrow Your Faith.]
- [That we must strive to be Vessel's Of Honor – Overcomers]
- [That we are in Perilous Times filled with False Teachers.]
- [That there is a sure Word of God that will Correct us, and Teach us.]
- [Now, That there are men of God who must Preach the Word of God to us.]

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[Why do we need these Preachers, who will Preach the Word of God to us?]

*[2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;**]*

[Because there is a Judgment Coming!]

[In our text we discover,]

A. The Coming Judge (vs 1; Heb 9.27; John 5.22) [*– I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who shall judge** the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; - Notice in our text that the Lord Jesus Christ is the coming judge. Our Lord is our loving and merciful savior, but He will also be our judge.*]

[Who will Jesus Judge? Our text says “. . . *The Quick and the Dead . . .*” which means He will judge every one. Every man, woman, and child.]

[That means that you have a judgment on your horizon. Because everyone will one day be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ.]

[The New Testament says,]

[Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:]

[Everyone will be judged.]

- [It does not matter whether you believe in God or not, you WILL be judged!]
- [It does not matter whether you believe the Bible is the Word of God or not, you will be judged!]
- [It does not matter whether you are Christian, Muslim, or anything else, you will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ.]

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A. The Coming Judge

[There is a judgment day coming, and you will be judged according to your works, according to the things you have done in your life. If you are judged according to your sins then you will ultimately be cast into the Lake of Fire.]

[Notice who the judge will be,]

Phil 2.10

*[2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and **the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead . . .]***

[In the gospel of John we read,]

*[John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, **but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:]***

[Folks, the Lord Jesus Christ is coming one day soon and very soon and He will judge all people. Every man, every woman, and every child will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ; who is King of kings and Lord of lords.]

[The Word of God says,]

[Philippians 2:10-11 ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.]

[Are you ready to stand before an eternal, all-knowing God, and to be judged by Him? We shall all be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ.]

B. The Coming Judgments (vs 1) [*- I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who shall judge the quick and the dead** at his appearing and his kingdom; - There are in view in this verse two very different kinds of judgments.]*

1. **[The Judgment of the Quick –** What is this judgment of the quick. The Greek word for quick, is a very unique kind of word. It means those who have been made lively or alive. It means much more than just those who are alive, in the contemporary sense.]

[You see we look around this room today and we ask ourselves, “Who here is alive?” Well, our answer is that everyone here is alive. It would just be weird if we were to look over here and say, “Well, now brother John is here but he is dead.” You see who would want to come to Church with a corpse. So I can safely say that everyone here, at least right now, is alive.]

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- A. The Coming Judge
- B. The Coming Judgments

[So what does this word “quick” mean? It means that today, seated in this sanctuary there are those who are quickened and there are those who are not. We are all mortally alive, but some in this room have been quickened, they have been made spiritually alive, while others are not. Some there are some who are born again while some may not be born again. So a quickened person is one who has been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. They have a deep spiritual life that might be called a conversion, or redemption; they are saved.]

[These Born Again Christians will one day be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ.]

[We call this judgment the Judgment Seat of Christ or the Bema of Christ.]

*[2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ; [the saved that is]** that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.]*

[One day you will stand before our Lord Jesus Christ in judgment. Let me ask you, Christain,]

- [Will you stand there having been Overthrown in your faith?]
- [Will you stand there having lived a sinful, carnal life after your salvation; like Lot? What do you think that will be like for Lot and those like him?]

- [Will you stand there having neglected the Church of our Lord? Having forsaken the assembling of yourself with the Church of our Lord?]
- [Will you stand there having been conquered by our adversary the devil? Bought by the blood of Christ yet living like the world, demonstrating an allegiance to the devil rather than the Lord Jesus Christ?]

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- A. The Coming Judge
- B. The Coming Judgments
 1. The Judgment of the quick

[You see your standing on that day is entirely up to you.] You have been given a free will by your Heavenly Father and the choices are all yours. You will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ one day Christian will you come before your Lord,]

- [**Having Loved His precious Word**, having read and memorized the Bible and having made the Bible a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path?]
- [**Having Loved the Church that Jesus died for**, having been ministered to and done ministry in the Church of our Lord?]
- [**Having done all to stand for our Lord Jesus Christ** and having endured hardness as a good soldier of Christ.]
- [Having Overcome sin and this world? Or will you stand before Him as one Overthrown in his faith?]

[What will your judgment day be like Christian?]

[You will be judged by our Lord Jesus Christ, will you be ashamed?]

2. **[The Judgment of the Dead (vs 2; Rev 2.11-15; Rom 6.23) – I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick **and the dead** at his appearing and his kingdom; - Now, who are these dead who are coming under judgment. Our text is not talking about a bunch of rotting corpses, it is talking about everyone who failed to turn to the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We Christians call these the lost.]**

Rev 2.11

[These will all be standing, living, viable bodies. These will be everyone who has ever lived in God's creation who failed to be saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen to the Word of God,]

[Revelation 20:11-15 ¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.]

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[Notice that this is the “Second Death.” This is what Rom 6.23 is referring to when it says,]

*[Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is **death**; . . .]*

[The death required by our sin is this second death, that is it is eternal death in the Lake of Fire.]

[This judgment of the **dead** includes everyone who was not saved from all of time. **Absolutely everyone**. They all receive their bodies back, they stand before the Lord Jesus Christ, and they are judged according to their works.]

[**Notice in verse 12 that the books are opened.** Every sinful thing that they have ever done is carefully recorded. Can you imagine the terror of that time? To have every rejection of God, every sinful act, every moment of self-glorification recounted in eternal judgment. Then in the end to hear the ultimate and absolutely final judgment rendered and to be carried to the precipice of the Lake of Fire and to be cast in to your everlasting doom.]

[All of this judgment will be rendered **by the Lord Jesus Christ**, who came to seek and to save you. Who came and paid the penalty for all of

your sins, **but you would have none of that.** The Lord Jesus who called out to you on endless occasions begging you to call out to Him for your salvation, **but you refused Him and rejected Him.** What a sad, terrifying day.]

[And yet this day is coming quickly upon you. We will all be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ. I must ask you right now, which judgment will be your judgment? **Will you be among the quick or the dead!**]

[We will ALL be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ, both the quick and the dead. Are you ready for that judgment?]

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- A. The Coming Judge
- B. The Coming Judgments
 - 1. The Judgment of the quick
 - 2. The Judgment of the dead

C. The Calling of Judgment (vs 1-2) [*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.* – Now let us consider the calling in the light of these two coming judgments. **Will you get ready and be ready to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ or will you reject Christ and be in peril when you stand before Christ?**]

[How do you get ready?]

- [You respond to the invitation of God to be saved – You must recognize the gospel message and call out to the Lord Jesus Christ to save you.]

[John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.]

- [You get into the Word of God and you get under the sound (The Preaching) of the Word of God. This is to have a God-and –I time and to get into your Church so you can get under the preaching of the Word of God.]

[How do you get to the judgment of the dead? You do nothing. You just ignore God. You just act like God never existed. You just go ahead and live a wicked and vile life.]

[You will one day be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ! Are you ready for that?]

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