

THEIR FOOT SHALL SLIDE IN DUE TIME

DEUTERONOMY 32:35 • TV070B

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Deuteronomy 32:35

“To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.”

You may think this is a strange way for me to begin a sermon but I’m going to begin this sermon today by announcing a fact and this is the fact; this will not be a pleasant sermon for me to preach or for you to hear.

I’m going to speak on final punishment. I’m going to speak on the condemnation of unbelievers. I’m going to speak from a text in **Deuteronomy chapter 32:35** which says; **“THEIR FOOT SHALL SLIDE IN DUE TIME.”**

Now my friend, the man who enjoys preaching a sermon on God’s wrath; (now listen to me) the man who enjoys preaching on God’s wrath and the condemnation of evil men does not have a heart of love for sinners. He has no compassion for sinners. He has no understanding of the wrath of God.

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And a man who delights and enjoys hearing; now you listen, a man who enjoys hearing, enjoys hearing a sermon on judgment and eternal wrath, is filled with presumption. He's filled with self-righteousness and he really has no genuine fear of God in his heart.

So, I'm not going to enjoy preaching this sermon, not like some I've preached on the mercy, the love of God and the grace of God in Christ Jesus. And you're not going to enjoy hearing it but you've got to hear it and I've got to preach it.

I must preach it as Paul says, *"I kept back nothing profitable unto you. I must not shun to declare unto you all (the whole) counsel of God."* Men may not like it and enjoy it but I must preach it, *"Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel."*

Well, really there are three reasons for preaching this message:

First of all: One is the example of my Lord!

That's the first reason for preaching; you would be an example of Christ Jesus. Christ our beloved Master, our beloved Saviour, warned men to flee the wrath to come. He warned sinners; listen to Him; He says, *"Don't be afraid of them which kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I say unto you, fear Him who is able to cast you body and soul into hell."* Christ said that.

And our Lord said: *"If your right hand offends you; cut it off. It's better to go through life with one hand than to go into hell with two where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched."*

In Matthew He said, talking about those unbelievers who will stand on the left hand at the Judgment; our Lord said, *"These shall go away into everlasting punishment."*

Someone said our Lord said more about hell than He did about heaven. That may be so because He had a lot to say about eternal condemnation and eternal punishment. I haven't had a lot to say about it but we must say something about it. We must, from the example of our Lord.

Secondly: And then we must from the command of our Lord!

He said; listen to this found in **Ezekiel**; *"When I say unto the wicked man: O wicked man thou shalt surely die; now, if you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at your hand."*

My Lord commanded me to preach on this subject, condemnation. I'm not only to preach the love of God; I'm to preach the wrath of God, not only the mercy of God, but the righteousness of God, not only the grace of God but the truth of God and eternal condemnation.

Thirdly: The reason I preach it is this, not only from the example of our Lord and the command of our Lord but the possibility that someone will be awakened, that someone will be disturbed, that someone will be brought to a genuine fear of sin, and a genuine desire for salvation, a

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genuine fear of judgment and condemnation, and a genuine need of grace and someone would be awakened to seek the Lord.

Nineveh was awakened to seek the Lord under the preaching of Jonah; that's right. And the Gentiles were awakened to seek the Lord under the preaching of Paul.

And it may be that someone out there listening to me will listen not just with the ears but with the heart and will not listen to a man only but to God speaking through His Word; *“For we are ambassadors of Christ (and for Christ) as though God did beseech you by us. Be ye reconciled to God. Flee from the wrath to come.”*

Maybe there's a dying thief out there that will see something today or hear something today or be awakened by God's Spirit. But listen to the text; it ought to be marked in your Bible, **Deuteronomy 32:35**; listen to it:

God says: *“To me belongeth vengeance and recompense. Their foot shall slide in due time for the day of their calamity is at hand and the things that shall come upon them make haste.”*

Now my message will be divided into six parts and I'll give you each part clearly and plainly. If you'd like to write it down and study it. That's what I would like for you to do. I don't want your faith to stand in the wisdom of men, to persuade the power of some man, the logic of a man, but in the Word of God, in the power of God.

This Book that shall judge you, not my word; its Christ to whom you must give an account, not me, for you listen now:

First of all: God has the power to cast men into hell!

Now God has that power. We see a little man standing on the street corner and he's got him a soapbox and he's leading an atheistic rally, men who deny the existence of God. He feels real brave and real good and he steps up on the box and he raises his fist to heaven and shakes his fist and he says:

“If there be a God up there; let Him strike me dead. If there be a God up there I dare Him to strike me dead.” And then he laughs. And everybody claps and laughs. And he steps down off the box and walks his way unharmed and men say; “Well why doesn't God do something, why doesn't God do something?”

He will, He says: *“There foot shall slide in due time.”* He will. God always pays His bills. *“The wages of sin is death.”* God always pays those who earn those wages. God always recompenses; *“To every transgression a just reward,”* He says that. *“To me belongeth vengeance. Their foot shall slide in my own time.”*

David lamented. If you'll read the **73 Psalm**; this will be a good assignment for you today, read the **73 Psalm** and you'll find that David there is lamenting the trials of believers, talking about

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how believers were under heavy trials and suffering and persecution. And the prosperity of the wicked; wicked men just seem to prosper. David, talking about the wicked, the unbelievers, and the rebels; he said, *“Well they’re not in trouble and they’re not plagued.”*

He says, “They have everything they want, all they want. They are corrupt, they speak against heaven and yet they prosper. When I thought on this, he said, it was too painful for me. I couldn’t understand.”

Here was the righteous believer persecuted in need, under heavy trials. It seemed like God’s hand was so heavy upon him. Like Naomi when she came back to Bethlehem they said; *“Well here comes Naomi.”*

She said: *“Call me not Naomi; call me Mara (which means bitter); God hath dealt bitterly (severely) with me.”* God dealt severely with all her children and sent a heavy trial.

David couldn’t understand that and then he says: “I went down to the sanctuary, to the House of God and God showed me. I was looking at the prosperity of the wicked, the plenty. God showed me their end.” *“Their foot shall slide in due time.”*

“What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?” Why this life is but a vestibule that leads into the great hall of eternity. It’s like one snowflake in a blizzard. It’s like one drop of rain in a flood.

This life is nothing; it’s just a fleeting shadow. It’s just a temporarily blooming flower. It’s just a vapor. *“What is your life?”* It is but a vapor. It’s nothing compared to eternity. David said, “God showed me their end.”

God does everything in His own time. The Scripture says; *“In the fullness of the time God sent forth His Son made of a woman; in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”* In due time God will exalt you.

And here he says concerning the unbeliever, the rebel, and the wicked: *“Their foot shall slide in due time.”* They have no rock for it to rest upon. They have no foundation to build upon. They have no refuge to hide in and *“their foot shall be set in slippery places”* and it will slide and it will slide in God’s own time. He’s got the power.

Secondly: And the sinner has no power to resist God!

“Who can stay His hand or say unto Him: What doest thou? God does according to His will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of this earth.” That’s what He showed Nebuchadnezzar, *“Who can stay His hand or say unto Him what doest thou?”*

God has the power and the right to cast men into hell. Why? It’s because men deserve to be condemned. Now I know this is not going to be popular but it’s so whether we like it or not.

Men deserve to be cast into hell. Men deserve to be separated from God. Men deserve to be condemned.

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Now listen to me, suppose you are standing at the last Judgment. You are standing there before God and the books have been opened and God keeps good books, accurate books. God keeps immaculate books.

God keeps minute books, every detail, every secret deed, every idle word, every imagination, every thought, and every attitude. It's all written, God says. Everything's right there. *"Men shall be judged out of those things written in the books."*

And you stand there and God sees your record. God says, *"Bind him hand and foot and cast him into hell."* And you say, "Now wait a minute" and you look around for someone to speak for you and someone to plead your cause and you look around hoping someone will say something but nobody does, nobody does!

Now the believer; Christ will be there to speak for him. Christ is our High Priest; Christ is our Mediator. That's one who speaks for another. That's one who represents another, our advocate, our lawyer, who pleads our case.

Christ is the believer's Advocate. *"If any man sin we have an advocate with the Father."* Christ is our Advocate. And He's going to plead not our works but His, not our merit, but His, not our righteousness, but His, His wounds and His hands and feet, His blood. He's going to plead that for us.

But you look around; you don't have an advocate. You stand before the judgment of God and the Books are opened and God says: *"Bind him hand and foot and cast him into hell"* and you say; "Hold on there; wait just a minute! Now somebody speak for me." And no one answers.

So, God turns to the law and He says; "Law; do you object to this man being condemned, do you object?" And the law answers back and says; "No; I do not. He is a transgressor of the law. He has broken the law. He has broken the law in many ways, in many words, in many evil thoughts, in many evil actions, and many evil imaginations. He's broken every law." *"To offend in one point is to be guilty of the whole law."* "I don't object. I vote to condemn him. He's a law-breaker. He's a transgressor. He has violated the righteousness and the holiness of God."

And God says, "All right justice; do you object to this man being condemned?" And justice replies, "No I do not; he has sinned and *"the soul that sinneth; it shall die."*

Isn't that what you said Lord? Isn't that what's written? *"Every soul that sinneth shall surely die. The soul that sinneth must surely die. God will in no wise clear the guilty."*

God must be just. He must punish sin. Isn't that what you said Lord? This man's a sinner. This man's a criminal. This man's a trader. This man has violated your righteous commandment. Justice says: "Away with him."

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The Lord turns to the great High Priest Jesus Christ and He says, “My Son; do you object to this man being condemned? Do you object to this man cast into hell?” And the Lord Jesus replies, “No I do not. I never knew him. He never came to me for mercy. He never came to me for grace.”

“It was said over and over again in the Scriptures: *‘If we confess our sins He’s faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’* He never confessed his sins. If there’s any example in the Scripture, the Publican cried: *‘Lord; be merciful to me a sinner’* and I showed him mercy. This man never cried for mercy.”

“This man talked about how many times he’d fasted, how many times he’d been to church, how many times he’d prayed, how many times he’d tithed, and how many times he’d done good works. No; Father he never called on me. Yes it was said in the Word and He heard it: *‘Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’* But he never called. Yes it was said in the Word: *‘He that believeth on the Son hath life.’* But he never believed.”

“Yes it was said in the Word, *‘If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord.’* But Father, he never confessed me to be Lord. He never looked to me; he looked to everything else but me. Father I do not object. I do not plead for him. He never asked me to. He never looked.”

And then God the Father turns to the redeemed people of God and He says to them; “Do you object to this man being condemned? The law doesn’t object. Justice does not object. My Son does not object. What about you people, Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, and John the Baptist, Paul, Peter, James, and John, you redeemed people; do you object?”

But they reply; “We don’t object for *“true and righteous are His judgments.”* And when He shall cast the great religious professors and the great religious hypocrite into hell and the smoke of that torment ascendeth up forever the redeemed of all ages shall shout, *“Hallelujah; glory to God, just and righteous are His judgments.”*

I’m sorry my friend; there’s no one to plead your cause. Justice says, “I’ve not found a ransom.” There’s been no redemptive price paid to me for that fellow. I have not in my book anywhere, any record of his sins being paid for; they’re still on him. He’s got to pay for them.

Thirdly: Sinners are right now under the wrath of God. Something this generation does not understand; at least they don’t preach it.

So, to be under the wrath of God, at Judgment will be no new thing. I know that preachers don’t preach this now but can you listen to me for the next two or three minutes? Sinners, unbelievers, Christ objectors, are right now under the wrath of God. It’s not a coming thing. It’s not a future thing; it’s a present condition.

Now listen: **“Psalm 7:11:** *“God is angry with the wicked every day.”* Listen to **John 3:36:** *“He that believeth not on the Son the wrath of God, abideth on him.”*

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Oh, I know the little buttons you'll wear and the bumper sticker "smile God loves you;" but now you better believe God instead of bumper stickers. God didn't choose by the foolishness of bumper stickers to save people but by the preaching of His Word.

Faith cometh by hearing the word of God, not a bumper sticker, but by the Word of God and not by testimonies and experiences but by the Word of God and God says: "*He that believeth not on the Son the wrath of God (right now) abides on him.*" God's angry with the wicked!

Unbelievers are not on trial; the trial is over. The trial was held in the Garden of Eden. We were there. We were there in our father Adam. We were in the loins of Adam. And when he stood, we stood. When he sinned, we sinned. When he fell, we fell. When he died, we died. We were in Adam.

The trial's over, we are not on trial. Unbeliever's are not on probation. The sentence has passed. The trial's over. All of the evidence has been presented. The sentence has been passed, guilty, and the judgment has been set, eternal hell.

It's already over. You're not on probation. God never says in His Book that you're on probation. We are on death row; that's where we are. We need to be rescued. We need to be lifted from certain ruin, from darkness and death and judgment.

Christ came to set the prisoner free. If men were on probation they wouldn't be in prison. Men who are on probation are out, not in. But we're in by nature, not out.

And then unbelievers are not friends with God; they are enemies of God. Christ said, "The world is enmity." Is that what He said? "*The carnal mind (natural mind) is enmity against God. It's not subject to the law of God, neither indeed, can be.*"

So what I'm saying, when God sends men to hell there's not going to be any change. They're already under the wrath of God. In **Revelation 22:11** it says: "*He that's unjust; let him be unjust still. He that's filthy; let him be filthy still.*" He that's a transgressor, he's a transgressor still. He that's a lover of evil, he's a lover of evil still. There's no change. He that's under the wrath of God is under the wrath of God still.

Fourthly: Unbelievers are controlled; (now watch this) by evil principles; they would find no happiness in heaven!

An unbeliever would not find any happiness in heaven if God let him go there. Now, he doesn't love Christ now; what makes you think he would love Him then? He doesn't enjoy fellowship with God now; why do you think he would want to have fellowship with God forever?

You can't get him to sit and listen to a message from God's Word for 30 minutes. How in the world can he stand eternity in the presence of God? You can't rope, hog-tie, button-hole, pull, persuade or bribe him to go to the House of God. What makes you think he would want to go the House of God and live forever dominated by evil principles?

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If men do not believe God's Word now, why would they believe it then? If men do not enjoy holiness now, why would they enjoy it then? Someone said, "Well preacher; it won't do a man any good to send him to hell."

Now listen to me, God's not sending men to hell to do them good. That's not how God does men good. Christ came to do men good. Christ said, "*I'm come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.*"

And when men refuse and reject God's way of life, they must bear God's wrath. God's not sending men to hell to do them good; He's sending men to hell to punish them for sin and shall remove them from His universe where they can do no more harm.

God is going to remove every enemy. The natural mind is an enemy of God. I just read that in **Romans 8:7**, "*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*" God's going to remove every enemy. He said, "*Every enemy shall be destroyed. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*"

God's going to rid this universe, heaven, earth, and the universe, of every rebel, of every unbeliever, of every devil, of every enemy, until He gets the last one which is death, and then He's going to have a Kingdom of righteousness and perfect holiness over which Christ will reign. That's right, that's right!

Fifthly: The fact that men right now are in good health and prosperity will not deliver them from God's wrath. He said, "*Their foot shall slide in due time.*" He may live to be 40, 50, 70, 80, 90, or maybe even 100 but, "*it is appointed unto men once to die.*"

Let me tell you my friend, you boast of your strength and your good health; almighty God is able to remove it just like that. Oh how powerless men are against earthquakes, floods, snowstorms, and acts of God.

I'll tell you this, all that God has to do is just cut your backbone and you are paralyzed. All God has to do is just touch one nerve in your body and you're dead, just touch your heart, it ceases to beat, your lungs, and you cease to breathe. You're in the hands of God.

Pilate said to our Lord, "You refuse to answer me knowing that I've got the power to crucify you or let you go?" And Christ said, "*You could have no power over me at all except it were given you from above.*" All power is of God!

Yes sir; they're going to slide, "*In due time.*" God's the one that has the calendar marked. The instrument of death is already prepared. God's the one who set these dates; He said, "*The number of man's months are with the Lord.*"

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Job 14; read it. You read the first part of it, “*Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble.*” But read the rest of it, “*God hath set His bounds and He cannot pass.*”

Sixthly: There is a way of deliverance; there is a ransom!

Job said in **Job 33:24;** listen: “*He is gracious unto him and He said, deliver him from going down into the pit for I have found a ransom.*” Wouldn’t that be good?

Oh, when I think of my sins and the broken law and the justice of God and the eternal judgment and I think oh if I could just find a ransom. You won’t find it in a church. You won’t find it in religion. You’ll find it in Christ.

He is that ransom. He came to ransom sinners. “*He was numbered with the transgressors and by His knowledge shall my servant justify many.*” The ransom is Christ. Just like paying a ransom for a kidnapped victim. They send notes and say, “If you don’t pay so much we are going to kill him.”

And Christ provided a ransom. He met the laws demands and honored them. He met justice’s demands and satisfied them. He met all that God the Father required and fully paid the price.

**“Jesus paid it all
All the debt I owe
Sin left a crimson stain
But He washed it white as snow.”**