

# Look Who Is Laughing Now

By

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## Introduction

We can be so self reliant at times. We walk through each day, thinking we can “do our own thing,” and not be reliable upon anyone but ourselves for the consequences. And then, when we are confronted with the reality of how very frail our time is here on earth, we become even more insidious in our attitude toward the very one to whom we will have to give an account for our lives, and that is Almighty God. God has given us the opportunity, which anyone with any common sense would never refuse. He offers us a choice of eternal life, either the blessings and bliss of Heaven, or the torture and torment of an eternal Hell. And then, to top all the arrogance of this world, we will shake our very fists seemingly in the face of God and tell Him, “I’ll get to Heaven my own way,” not realizing our feeble efforts fail miserably. For those of you who will cry that God is a God of love, remember this; that at the Great White Throne of Judgment, there will be no more love, no more mercy and no more grace. There will only be but the final, dreadful wrath of God that the lost will have to face.

But my friend, guess who is going to have the last laugh? No, it is not Satan and his evil emissaries, for they too will be cast into the eternal lake of fire. And no, it is definitely not you, for without this gift of Heaven, you will accompany the devil and his host of demonic forces, as you also will be hurled into the eternal abyss of Hell.

It is God Himself who will have the last laugh. And what a dread that will be, to have Him thrust the sinner from His very presence, laughing all the time. Oh the horrors of having the last thing to be heard from the mouth of God, His laughter, as the sinner is cast out of His presence, to forever hear that ringing laughter in their ears.

We shall see in our study four areas in which God will laugh at the failure of man, and how you need not to fall into any of these areas. For you, my friend, there is still hope; there is still time, there is still that opportunity to call upon the only one who does love you more than even His own Son. For you, there is that chance to realize your own efforts will fail, and that salvation is not in **do**, but in **done**. Your eternal reward in Heaven is waiting you, if only you will cast yourself upon the mercy of God,

repent of your sins and accept the free gift of eternal life by believing on the name and in the blood of the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Read carefully, my friend, for in so doing, you will see how you can avoid the laughter that will be faced by those who will not heed the warning of God, and seek to gain merit in their own ways. I trust you will come to realize that which He has done for you, through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jerry W Jones PhD  
Psalm 68:11

# 1.

## We Will Not Have This Man Reign Over Us

Jesus Christ was nearing the end of His earthly ministry, and was preparing His disciples to understand what was going to transpire shortly in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Many of the disciples, as well as others who followed Him during His journeys, had thought that He was going to immediately establish the Kingdom, and upon their trek toward the city of Jerusalem, He spoke yet another parable unto them. Reading in the Gospel of Luke, chapter nineteen, we see the following story that He unfolds to them:

*And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading (Luke 19:11-15).*

*But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me (Luke 19:27).*

Here was the classic story and example of how the nation of Israel was to reject the King of kings and Lord of lords, but it would be this very one who would ultimately set up His kingdom, no matter what efforts would be taken by those who had rejected Him.

Another parable was given to the Pharisees, which was Christ's denunciation of their rejection of Him as the Messiah and His rejection of them and turning to Gentiles for propagation of the Gospel. In Matthew chapter twenty-one, we have the parable of the householder requiring the fruit from his vineyard. This story was an expansion of the story of the vineyard of Isaiah chapter five, yet the Jews of that day did not see, nor understand how the parable was implied to mean they were the ones rejecting Jesus. Reading in Matthew, we see the following:

*Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress*

*in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them (Matthew 21:33-45).*

“We will not have this man to reign over us. Come, let us kill him.” That was the rage that was shown in the face of the religious leaders in the days of Christ. But it is also the same hatred being displayed in the world today. “I don’t need God. I don’t need Christ. I’m just as good as the next fellow.” Oh, but my friend, that “next fellow” is no good either. He is just as rotten and unrighteous as you or any other. He is as big a fool as you to say in his heart, “No, God” (Psam14:1).

There was recently a movie actress who had won an Emmy Award, and when she went to accept the reward, so said, “Most will come up here and say, ‘Thank you Jesus’ for this reward. I’m here to tell you, Jesus had nothing to do with my winning this award. This is my god.”

God must be looking down from His lofty height and laughing at the feeble efforts we have to cast aside the one who He sent to be the final satisfaction of His wrath. He sees the rulers of the earth in their vain efforts to set up humanism, the one-world government, the one-world currency, the one-world church, and must be holding His sides, as the courts of Heaven ring with the sound of His laughter. It was because of this vain effort of man that King David, king of Israel, spoke of this ridicule from the mouth of God. The rejected King will still reign, no matter what those of this earth may try. And those who rejected Him will have their own day in court. But how sad the sound they will hear. “Hmmm. It looks like you have been one of those who would not have my Son to reign over you. You are one of those who thought you could get to Heaven by casting aside the bounds that I set up in the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.” David warned long before what would be their calamity in Psalm 2:1-5, where in speaking of the rage of the nations, he said, ***Why do the heathen rage, and the***

*people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.*

Think of the ridicule that will face the unsaved. For so long, they have refused the one who loved them so much. How it must have pained the heart of Jesus as He saw the very religious leaders of the Jews, the ones who were supposed to be guides for spiritual means for the Jews, refusing to accept Him as their promised Messiah. For over three years, Jesus had testified to them of the saving grace He made available for them, yet knowing they would turn from Him, spit upon Him, slap Him in the face, literally pull His beard from His face, and the ultimate of hatred, turn Him over to the Roman government to be crucified on the cross of shame, hanging in nakedness to the cruel eyes of the mocking crowd. *All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shout out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him* (Psalm 22:7-8).

But who will have the last laugh? One day, my friend, those who have rejected the King of kings and Lord of lords, shall stand in front of the Messiah, not now as a Savior, but as a judge, the Judge of the world. And then He will vex them in his sore displeasure over their rejection of the free gift of salvation.

Remember the story of the fifth grade bully, always picking on the smaller fellow? Then came the eighth grade, and the bully finds the “little fellow” has grown taller, bigger and stronger than he? Guess who will feel the wrath now? Just as he had vexed the little fellow for so long, now he can expect the same ridicule to fall upon him. You may shake your fist in the face of God and yell, “I don’t need you,” but one day, when you bow before the feet of the Savior, He will look at you and it will be Him saying, “I don’t need you,” and then laugh, as you are cast into the eternal lake of fire and brimstone to forever hear His raging laughter in your ears.

“We will not have this man to reign over us.” Oh, but my friend, He will reign, eternally and gloriously. And there is nothing that you can do to avoid this truth. You may set yourself, as did the Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes of old, and you may wish to break the bands asunder that God has established, but He will reign. And you, outside this covenant of grace, mercy and peace, will be forever dead, yet still alive. It is full. It is complete. Salvation has been provided. Accept Jesus Christ today, as your Lord and Savior, before it is eternally too late.

The nation of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, marched through the Red Sea, saw the miracles as God provided food and water for them. Now they were near the Mount, and Moses had gone up to receive the tables of stone with the Commandments of God. But in their haste, the nation said, “We will not have God to reign over us. Let us make us golden gods to worship,” and to their shame, Moses came down from the Mount with the tables and saw the nation dancing in riotous nakedness. Moses took the tables of stone and cast them down, breaking them. Why? The people, in breaking the very first commandment, worshiping other than God, had broken the entire law.

They had previously proclaimed, *All that the LORD hath spoken we will do* (Exodus 19:8). Then, within forty days, they had broken the very promise that they had made, thereby breaking the whole law.

When the Galatians sought to again obey the law, on a hope that it would keep them saved, they were declaring that they felt indebted to keep the law, as well as believe in Jesus, thereby nullifying the finished work of Calvary. They were now again bound to keep the whole law. ***Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace*** (Galatians 5:4). Was Paul telling them that because of their desire to keep the law, they were no longer saved? No, he was telling them that they were denying that Christ's blood was efficacious enough to save them. They were casting aside the grace of God for their own works, thereby trying to justify themselves by their own puny efforts to save themselves. Grace and work are like oil and water. They never mix. It is either all of grace or all of works. Neither is there ever a combination of the two. ***For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love*** (Galatians 5:5-6). Circumcision does not do you any good, if you are seeking to help in your salvation. For that matter, baptism does not help you any either. Baptism is, like circumcision was to Abraham, a step of obedience to the faith that had already previously been demonstrated. It is an answer to that which God, through Jesus Christ, had already finished in your heart and life. It is by faith in that which God, again through Jesus Christ, had accomplished, that we are able to ***...wait for the hope of righteousness by faith*** (Galatians 5:5).

Now Paul seeks their answer to the culprit or culprits responsible for their desire to return to the works of the law. ***Ye did run well: who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*** (Galatians 5:7). When Paul was later to write to young preacher Timothy, he mentioned some men who had perverted the Gospel of Christ by bringing in heresy, and ***...who I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme*** (First Timothy 1:20).

Here in Galatians, Paul is asking them to name the persons responsible for trying to entangle them again by false doctrine. He had earlier told them such a person would have on them the anathema of God for bringing in error (Galatians 1:3-9). It is a fearful thing to bring one's own philosophies and mix them with God's Word and teach that they have as much saving merit as does the blood of Jesus Christ.

## 2.

# Evidences Of Ridicule

One of the greatest evidences of hatred against the kingdom of God, and the ultimate kingdom of Heaven, is that concerning the persecutions of the saints of God, from the very first martyr of Stephen, through the persecutions of the Roman Popes of the dark ages, through the persecutions behind the Iron Curtain in the days of the rise of Communism, and the ultimate persecution to come, during the Great Tribulation, following the rapture of the Christians to stand before their Savior at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Jesus had declared to His disciples that tribulation was coming upon them, his comforting them concerning His impending crucifixion. The world would shout with glee because of the death of Jesus, but this laughter would be turned against them. In John chapter sixteen, we read: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy* (John 16:20).

Following the stoning of Stephen, the one man who was an instigator in the persecution of the followers of Christ, Saul of Tarsus, was to be converted on the road to Camascus and become the great promoter of the cause of salvation. Later in his ministry, he was to write a letter to the saints in the region of Philippi, telling them that they could expect persecution in their lives. *And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.* (Philippians 1:28-30).

The believer, as a child of God and joint heir with Christ, can expect to suffer persecution at the hands of the world. But our suffering shall be turned to joy. In writing to the Christians in Rome, again the Apostle Paul was to state: *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together* (Romans 8:14-17).

The suffering Paul was facing at the hands of a sinful world was possibly that which caused his young preacher, Timothy, to feel ashamed to be acquainted with Paul. But no so with Paul. He counted it joy to suffer for the sake of Christ. Wanting to ease the troubled conscience of Timothy, Paul sat down and wrote a second letter to him, exhorting Timothy to not be overwhelmed with guilt or embarrassment because of the tribulation that he, Paul, was facing. *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according*

*to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day* (Second Timothy 1:6-12).

But what is God's attitude towards all this rebellion against the saints of God? Does He realize that which is happening to those who have received the free gift of eternal life, through repentance and faith in the Son of God? Oh yes, my friend. God is very much aware of that which is happening to the Christian. As the wicked religious leaders of the synagogue gnashed their teeth on Stephen the martyr, even so the wickedness of the world would be evident until the return of Christ. *The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken* (Psalm 37:12-15).

My friend, if you are born again through the blood of Christ, you too can expect to suffer persecution at the hands of those of this world who know not Christ as their Lord and Savior. Their sole purpose is to live in defiance of all that is holy, just and good. And because you are a Christian, you will not, or at least should not, fit into their mold. You will be looked upon as if you are a round peg in a square hole. The world will look upon the child of God as something weird and will do everything possible to make life miserable for him, and laugh at everything that would humiliate.

But guess who will have the last laugh? Will it be the Christian, seeking vengeance against those who display their wrath against righteousness? No, my friend. The final judgment and vengeance will be given by the Lord, when one day, those who ridiculed and hated Christians will bow in the presence of the one they detested, and it shall be Jesus Christ who shall have the last laugh. We are told, in Romans chapter twelve, *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceable with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord* (Romans 12:17-19).

From the Christian's perspective, there seems to be no rhyme nor reason why others should hate them. After all, the intention of a child of God is only to do good, and to try to show the lost how they can be assured of going to Heaven. Why should the lost hate such a hatred for this? My friend, it is because they love their sin and hate that which is good.

There once was a pastor who came home in the evening, called for his young son and said, "Come on with me. We are going to go for a ride downtown." The boy was anxious to spend some time alone with his father, so eagerly jumped in the car. After a short drive, the pastor stopped the car and got out, with the young boy following. They went into a local bar and just stood there, looking around at the darkened room, then turned around and returned to the car and drove off. The boy pondered this and then asked his dad, "Dad, why was it so dark in there?" The father answered, "My son, it is because the Bible says, *men loved darkness rather than light*.

Asaph in the Old Testament pondered the plight of the wicked, when thinking about the prosperity of sinners, while sometimes the saint of God was faced with trials. But at last, he saw the conclusion of the whole matter: ***For all day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awaketh, so, O LORD, when thou awakesst, thou shalt despise their image*** (Psalm 73:14-20).

The Christian may wonder in his heart, “Why do I have to suffer tribulation, when this man is constantly ridiculing me, and nothing ever happens to him?” But then, on the day when he goes into the house of the Lord, he understands the end of all matters. The day will come when the saint shall rejoice, and the sinner shall repent, but eternally too late. Then Almighty God will look at him and say, “So you thought you were a big shot because you could belittle and chasten my child. Well, now you see who is raping that for which he has sown.” And then, to the terror of the wicked, he shall hear the laughter of God, as he is hurled into the tongues of darkness, to forever suffer the punishment of eternal damnation, forever hearing the laughter of God ring in his ears.

Will this be you, my friend? Are you rebelling against the pricking conscience of the Holy Spirit, as He convicts you of your sin? Are you still saying, “No, God.” Then that dilemma also awaits you, on the day you come before God, then as your Judge, not as your Savior. He will have the last laugh, as you cry in anguish of body and soul.

## The Transgression Of The Wicked

Transgression, as defined by American Dictionary Of The English Language, 1828 edition, is stated as follows: The act of passing over or beyond any law or rule of moral duty; the violation of a law or moral principle of rectitude; breach of command. "...Forgive thy people all their *transgressions*. I Kings viii" The Word of God defines transgression long before the beginning of the English language. In First John 3:4, we read: ***Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth the law; for sin is the transgression of the law.***

The Scriptures speak much concerning the transgression of the wicked and how they are workers of iniquity. Their only thought is to conceive more wickedness. Even before the flood, Genesis 6:5 tells us, ***And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.***

God is continually calling for the wicked to forsake their evil ways (Isaiah 55:6-7) but still, the thought of their minds is only to "do their own thing." ***But the wicked are like the trouble sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked*** (Isaiah 57:20-21).

Man's attitude towards God is clearly seen, because of the attitude of the heart. It is concerned with nothing but self, not giving any thought to that which pertains to God and righteousness. But God knows the heart of man, and it is God who will judge man by the deceitfulness of his heart. As it says in Jeremiah 17:9-10, ***Th heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins even to give to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.***

Man is so sinfully self-righteous. He thinks he can pull himself into Heaven by his own bootstraps, yet fail to realize that all his pathetic efforts are in vain. He looks at the child of God, who is seeking to do the will of the Lord, and laughs at him, derides and ridicules him, and then goes on his merry way. It is as David had said, when he was fleeing from his enemies, ***Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloody men. For, o, they lie in wait for my soul: the mighty are gathered against me; not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O LORD. They run and prepare themselves without my fault: awake to help me, and behold. Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah. They return at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, shall hear? But thou, O LORD, shall laugh at them; thou shalt have all the heathen in derision. For the sin of their mouth and the works of their lips let them even be taken in their pride; and for cursing and lying which they speak*** (Psalm 59:1-8, 12).

So where do you stand, my friend? Have you rejected the will of God and decided that you are going to do that which is pleasing in your own eyes? If so, guess who is going to have the last laugh? Don't continue to think that you can "sow your wild oats" all week long and go to church on Sunday morning and pray for crop failure. It doesn't work that way. We are not to walk after the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life (I John 2:15-17). We are to seek to walk according to the fruit of the Spirit, sowing precious seed that produces life eternal.

We have a vivid description of the works of the flesh, as given to the Galatians by the Apostle Paul, where we read: ***Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God*** (Galatians 5:19-21). Contrary to this is the fruit of the Spirit: ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law*** (vs. 22-23).

What is it that Almighty God desires to give to each of us? His gift of eternal life, His grace, His mercy, and the blessings of His presence forever in Heaven. ***Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus*** (Ephesians 2:2-7).

Would not that be far better than to suffer the wrath of God, in standing before Him in naked, open shame, because of refusing Him now, in this present world? He has so demonstrated His great love towards you in sending His own and only Son into the world (Romans 5:8), to suffer the humiliation of the world, dying for you, so that in dying to self, you may live unto Jesus Christ. Won't you accept this free gift of salvation now, before it is eternally too late?

## The Foolish In Heart

Let us briefly consider the nature and character of the sinner who refuses to accept the way of salvation. What do the Scriptures tell us of such a person? Well, my friend, in the eyes of God, such a man is a fool. Even greater is the definition given in the book of Proverbs, where such a person is called simple – a simpleton. Psalm 14:1, can be interpreted to give us the attitude of the simple, or the fool at heart, where could state: ***The fool hath said in his heart, [No, God]. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.***

How long can someone go along and continue to refuse the grace of God? Only until the fool's head is laid down in death. But God today still calls for everyone to repent of their sin, to cast themselves upon His mercy and grace, in the name and through the blood of Jesus Christ, for forgiveness of their sins.

***How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil (Proverbs 1:22-33).***

Who is the fool? It is anyone who is given the Gospel and rejects it. There is nothing that is wise in refusing good, and choosing evil. It is seemingly like a man, standing on a precipice, looking down at a raging river, and given the choice of crossing over to the other side on a sturdy concrete bridge, or grabbing a shredded rope and crossing over, hand in front of hand. Only a fool would grab the rope.

The story is told of an evangelist who went to visit a very rich, but agnostic man. When the evangelist tried to give the man God's salvation message, the man said, "A long time ago I told God if He would leave me alone, I wouldn't bother Him. I kept my

bargain and expect Him to do likewise.” What a foolish idea, to reject what God offers in place of eternal damnation in the pits of darkness and the lake of fire.

The foolish man builds his house on the sand dunes of his own “works,” while the wise of heart has the settled foundation built upon the solid Rock, Jesus Christ. All our works will come to nothing, because the Word of God tells us, *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior* (Titus 3:5-6).

Nothing we do can measure up to the fullness of the love of God through Jesus Christ. And God looks upon the books of one’s works and laughs. The poor fool kneels in His presence and begs for mercy, but then there will be none to give. Then there will be nothing but the mocking, taunting glare of Almighty God, where fear comes as desolation and the sinner’s destruction comes upon him as a whirlwind. All the distress and anguish that faces him will not turn away the wrath of God in that day, for then it will be eternally too late. And forever and forever, the lost will fall into the pits of darkness and anguish, hearing the laughter of God in their ears, because for so long they had laughed in the face of God. But my friend, you do not have to be that fool. For you, there is still time. The prophet Isaiah tells us, *Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon* (Isaiah 55:6-7).

If you have not received the free gift of salvation, then it is still offered to you today. Simply admit that you are a sinner, for Romans 3:23 tells us, *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.* Admit to God that you justly deserve His punishment in Hell, because Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages of sin is death...* But my friend, understand and believe that God so loves you that He allowed His Son, Jesus Christ, to take your sin punishment for you. We read in Romans 5:8, *But God commendeth [demonstrated] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* And then, simply repent of your sin, confess to Him and believe in your heart the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved. Romans 10:9-10 tells us, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* That, my friend, is the simplicity of the Gospel. Repent of your sins, confess to God your own unworthiness, believe and receive the free gift of everlasting life, through calling upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. For God, who cannot lie, has promised you everlasting life. Romans 10:13 says, *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* And what God promises, He is more than able to perform. Anyone would be a fool and simple of heart to refuse such a wonderful gift, wouldn’t they? It is being offered to you, if you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. Accept it today, before it is eternally too late.

**The End –  
Or Just The Beginning?**