

Revelation 19:7-8

By Louis T. Talbot

And good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you once again in the name of our soon coming Lord. Now my friends, I want you to turn your Bibles to Revelation, Chapter 19 and I want you to look this morning at verses seven and eight. I want this morning to digress a little from our study just in order to make one thing clear. You know that when you get to the chapter 19 that everything in heaven is getting ready for the Lord Jesus Christ to return as King of kings and Lord of lords.

And when that takes place the church will have been in heaven for seven years. That is, the church is going to be translated before the 70th week of Daniel begins. And the description of the translation of the church as we have already seen is given in verse one, chapter four. And now the judgments are all out of the way. And the scarlet woman has been judged, and she is out of the way, and now there is introduced to us that great event in Heaven: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

And I put before you in the study yesterday that there is a difference between the marriage and the marriage supper. You know that the marriage supper always takes place after the marriage. And I believe that the marriage, and what is involved in that word will have taken place when the church is translated. When the church is translated, then the dead in Christ shall rise and the

living shall be changed and will be caught up to meet the Lord, and then it will be that we will be presented as a chaste virgin to Christ.

And so that there is a distinction here between the marriage and the marriage supper. Now in verses seven and eight, you have described the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Now there are one or two statements in verses seven and eight that you may have passed over, but I don't think that we should because they're very, very significant indeed. I want you to read with me verses seven and eight. And there we read, "Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come."

Now that should be translated according to the Hebrew scholars that we have in the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. The marriage of the Lamb has already come and her wife hath made herself ready. Do you see that the bride is described here already as a wife? And the wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clear and white, clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. Now if you look at your margin of your Bible, you will find that that word 'righteousness' is in the plural. And I pointed out to you yesterday that that last statement could be translated, should be translated: the righteous acts of the Saints.

Do you see that the bride in that day will be arrayed in the righteousness of Christ which is standing before God? The thing that gives you standing before God is the righteousness of Christ that is imputed to you the moment you put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, and there are no acts on your part that have anything to do with it. That is, that the righteousness of Christ is

imputed to you the moment you believe. But at the judgment seat of Christ, that she will have another righteousness called the righteous acts of the Saints which points on, or rather points back, back in that day, --although right now it points on--to the judgment seat of Christ. Now I want to make this clear, my friends: when the translation of the church takes place, the believer is going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Now, when a believer stands at the judgment seat of Christ, he is not going to stand there to find out whether he is to be saved or not because that is something that takes place and settles, is settled down here upon this earth. But at the same time, you and I are going to be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ in some very important respects which I want to make clear. Now first of all, I want you to note that a believer is saved down here on this earth the instant he commits himself to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now let us make that clear. For example, you take John 5:24. The Lord Jesus says, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, he that heareth my word and believeth on Him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." The Lord is not talking about what he is going to do five minutes before you die. He is talking about what takes place the moment you put your trust in the Lord Jesus. Flip to the 13th chapter in the Book of Acts and, and verses thirty nine, and there you find Peter saying these words: be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man Christ Jesus is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins, and by him all that believe are justified from all things from which he could not be justified by the law of Moses."

Now that verse tells us that when I commit my guilty soul into the safekeeping of the Lord Jesus Christ, there and then he pronounces eternal absolution over me and I am justified from all

things. You take that third verse in the eighth chapter of Romans, where Paul says "there is therefore now..." You see, it is a present reality..."there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." Now that settles the point once and for all, that when a sinner commits himself to the Lord Jesus Christ down here upon this earth, that the Lord Jesus Christ pronounces him absolutely guiltless and absolves him from every sin.

And yet, my dear friends, that you and I at the judgment seat of Christ, are going to be judged. That is, you personally are not going to be judged because you personally were judged in the Lord Jesus Christ when he died for you on Calvary. But I tell you what's going to be judged at the judgment seat of Christ. Your works and your words; that is, all your works are going to be judged in the first place. All your works as a believer from the day that you first believed in the Lord Jesus to the moment that you met Christ in the air at the resurrection will pass in review before the eyes of the Lord Jesus.

Now I proved that from First Corinthians, chapter three. Listen to these words. The apostle says, "Every man shall receive his own reward." And of course he is talking here to believers, he is not talking about unbelievers. He is talking about, he is talking to the Corinthian church and he says "every man shall receive his own reward according to his labor.

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, I have laid the foundation and another man buildeth thereon. But let each man take heed of how he buildeth thereon. For other foundation can no man lay, than that which is in Christ Jesus. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble. Every Man's work shall be made

manifest; for the day shall declare it." That day that he is talking about is the time of the translation of the church. "For the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire. And fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." Now listen, "if any man's work abides which he has built thereon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss but he himself shall be saved." That is, his salvation shall be left to him, but Paul says, "Yet so as through fire." Now what does that expression "so as through fire" mean? You see, it is a figurative expression so as through fire. Let me illustrate it this way. Suppose that you were awakened in the middle of the night with a cry of "fire, fire, fire", and you find your house is on fire, and you have just time to escape from your burning building with your life, but you see your house and you see all your valuables and all your clothing and all your possessions all burned to ashes.

You yourself are saved, yet saved as through fire. Do you know, my dear friends, that at the judgment seat of Christ that many believers in that day will see the greater part of their Christian lives burned up as useless, and their souls will be saved, their salvation will be left to them, because they trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ, but they will see large tracts of their Christian life burned up as useless, and the Lord will say, "My child, I cannot give you a reward for that." Well, you may say "well Mr. Talbot, how, how shall I find out that what I do each day is gold, silver, precious stones in the eyes of the Lord or only wood, hay and stubble?"

It is a most important thing for me to know. What is it that turns a believer's works into gold and what is it that turns them into wood in the eyes of the Lord?" My friends. The word of God teaches that when you stand at the judgment seat of Christ, that all that you do will be judged in

two aspects. First of all, there will be your work as to their quality. Now you can look at the sixth chapter of Ephesians and verse seven, and you will see what is, what it is that gives quality to your works.

And there we read this, the apostle Paul says "not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ doing the will of God from the heart, with good will doing service to the Lord and not unto men." Knowing that, whatsoever good any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether it be, whether he be burned or free. Then you take the third chapter of Colossians in verse two. Listen to what Paul says there. And of course he's addressing Christians.

He is not telling them how to be saved. They were already saved. He is telling them how to be approved at the judgment seat of Christ. And he says to them in the third chapter of Colossians in verse twenty three. "And whatsoever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto man, knowing that from the Lord, ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance, for ye serve the Lord Christ." Do you know, my dear friends, that, that little expression as unto the Lord? It's what turns all that I do and all that you do into gold and silver and precious stones in the eyes of our lord and savior. Everything that I do with a single eye toward the Lord Jesus Christ; that sparkles like gold, silver and precious stones in his sight. And everything that I do to bring glory to myself and glory to my particular denomination, or glory to my family. All that is going to be burned up as useless in the day of Christ's searching judgment when he searches our works to see what quality they are.

Only that which brings glory to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ is going to abide in that day. But, my dear friends, at the judgment seat of Christ, your works are going to be judged in another way. Let me remind you that what I am saying ties in with the marriage supper of the Lamb. And I am just putting these things before you because I want that you and I in that day should not only appear there clad in the righteousness of Christ, but I want that we should be clad in the righteousness of saints. Your works at the judgment seat of Christ will not only be judged according to their quality, but they're going to be judged according to their quantity.

You remember in the nineteenth chapter of Luke, the Lord Jesus Christ said this: "And it came to pass that when he returned, having received the kingdom, that he commanded those servants to be brought unto him to whom he had given the money that he might know how much, how much every man had gained by trading." Now there you have the quantity of your works judged. My dear friends, how many lazy Christians there are. How many Christians there are who never put themselves out to any convenience at all. Never put themselves to any kind of inconvenience whatsoever. You know that I think that, that at the judgment seat of Christ, the Lord is going to say to a lot of folks, "Well you know that I can't reward you for this and that, why, you are lazy." And then I want to say this: here is something very, very solemn.

Not only will my works as a Christian be judged there, but my words as a Christian will be judged as well.

My words. The Lord Jesus Christ said this: verily, verily, I say to you: every idle word that men shall speak, that they shall give an account thereof in the Day of Judgment. You know that it

would be, wouldn't it be a wise thing, wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if that verse were written up in our stores and offices and banks and, and stock exchanges, and especially in our churches. Because there is no place in the world where so many idle words are spoken to God as in our churches. You know that we have an idea that we can say anything to God. We think that we can kneel down and repeat any sort of prayers to God.

We think that we can sing any kind of hymns to God. He does not mind so long as the service is performed. O foolish people that we are! The idle words that we speak to God. You take that hymn, "Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold."

You know that I have met some folks and they sing that verse, "Not a mite would I withhold," and yet they'd bite a nickel in two. May the Lord deliver us from idle speaking to God and from idle singing to God. For all that, we're going to meet at the judgment seat of Christ. My idle words are going to be met there. Do you know, my dear friends, that at the judgment seat of Christ, that every story that I may have circulated about another brother is going to face me?

Every exaggeration that you have made about another brother. Everything that you have said with a view of injury, another brother is going to be met there. I may have said a thing, even though I may not have known it to be strictly true. And even if the thing is true, why should I circulate it? You know that love covereth a multitude of sin. How am i to be delivered from idle words? You know, by my heart getting filled with the love of Christ.

There is no other way, because the word of God says that out of the abundance of the heart, man speaketh. My friend, at the judgment seat of Christ, all of your works are going to go before the Lord.

And you know that your works will turn out to be the wood, hay, stubble or gold, silver, precious stones. And, and the Word of God says that the fire shall declare of what value they are. You know what fire does when it gets near a bunch of straw and wood and hay. You let a spark of fire get near to a pile of hay and brother, up she goes. And I think that when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ and the Lord begins to examine our works, everything that we have done from the time that we put our trust in the Lord Jesus to the time that we are caught up to meet him in the air, you know that when he gets through with our works, I think that a lot of us will say "Lord, is this all that I ever did for thee?" I do trust, my dear friends, that what I am saying this morning does not discourage you, because you don't have to do anything great.

You don't have to do anything to get your name on the front page of the newspaper in order to please the Lord. You may read in Christian magazines about what other people are doing and the thousands of people that others are preaching to, and here are you, and you spend most of your time just washing dishes and pushing vacuum cleaners, but the Lord Jesus said this. He said, "Even to the giving of a cup of cold water."

And I believe that the greatest ministry, my dear friends, that the Lord can give to all of you housewives is just to rear a family in the knowledge and the nature of the Lord. It isn't the greatness of it. It is the motive behind it. Now here we are coming now to what I've been leading

up to. The judgment seat of Christ is going to be, going to result in the giving of crowns. And those crowns are going to be worn at the marriage supper of the lamb. You will be clad there in the righteousness of Christ. But you will also be clad in the righteous acts of the saints. And your righteous acts will be expressed by the reward that you will receive at the judgment seat of Christ. And at the judgment seat of Christ there are, there are going to be five or, 3 or four crowns, I do not know exactly just how many, but that there are a few of them that come to my mind.

For instance, you take the first chapter of the first chapter of the Book of James, and there you read this: blessed is the man that endureth temptation. For after he hath been tried, he shall receive a crown of life which the Lord has promised to them that love him. My dear friends, there is a crown that is going to be given to the man who endureth temptation. And, and then it says that the Lord is gonna give that crown to them that love him.

My dear friend, if you just love the Lord, He's gonna give you a bright crown. And if any of you people listening to me this morning are going through special temptation, I want to say, "Cheer up, brother." Don't you let the devil knock you down because the Lord is giving to you an opportunity to wear a crown, the crown of life at the judgment seat of Christ. Or rather, at the marriage supper of the lamb. Then you take second Timothy, chapter four, verse 8. The apostle Paul says, I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the righteous judge shall give me at that day, and not only to me, but to all those who love his appearing." And so here is a crown that the Lord is going to give to all those who love his appearing. I think that the Lord

knew that this great subject of the Second Coming of Christ would be shelved toward the end of the age, and it's a subject that is so near to his heart that he has promised a crown of righteousness to them who love his appearing. My friends, you know that you don't have to, you don't have to do anything great. If you just love him, sincerely love him. And then if you love his appearing, then he is going to give you a crown of righteousness. And then he says, you take Peter in the epistle to Peter, the first epistle in chapter five.

Peter says this: when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory which shall not pass away. He says "and when the chief shepherd shall appear." that means that the under shepherds, all the pastors, if they have been truly, if they have been faithful to their task, if they have been feeding the flock and not feeding themselves, if they have been exalting Christ and not exalting themselves, that they shall receive a crown of glory that shall not pass away. I see my time is going. Now coming back here to Revelation Chapter 19, where at the judgment seat of Christ, we'll all be clad in the righteousness of Christ. That's imputed to you without works of any kind, the moment you believe. That you'll also be arrayed in the righteousness of the righteous acts of the saints.

And as we gather around the Marriage Supper of the lamb, we shall wear those rewards that we're given at the judgment seat. May the Lord abundantly bless you.

You say "Well, what shall I do with a crown?" Well brother, if you have a crown, you will have something to place at his feet.

My time is up. Goodbye. God bless you.