AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT

By Brother Mike Sutherland

Today, and the days that have followed since the passing of Mr. or Mrs. S0-And-So have been days of sorrow and grief. There will be more days of sorrow and grief to follow. Today, you could be Mr. Or Mrs. S0-And-So. For those that die in Jesus, we have the promise of the Apostle Paul in *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*:

> [13] But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. [14] For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. [15] For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. [16] For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. [18] Wherefore comfort one another with these words. *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

Wherefore comfort one another with these words. Hallelujah! What a powerful statement! The good news is that there is comfort in the Lord Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 1:3-6* has this to say:

> [3] Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; [4] Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. [5] For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. [6] And whether we be afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation. *2 Corinthians 1:3-6*

God is the God of all comfort. He is the great comforter. He has sent THE COMFORTER in the person of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is freely given to all those who receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. He can comfort each and every individual here today. I can tell you of the times of tribulation, the times of trouble, the times of affliction, and yes, even the times of anguish I had to face alone before I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour. Praise God he saved me! He gave me the peace that passeth all understanding. Thank God that when my daughter was murdered I knew the God of all peace and the God of all comfort. Can I tell you that you do not have to endure what you are going through today alone. You can come to rest in the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says that the Lord Jesus Christ is our peace and that he is "The Prince Of Peace". The Bible says in *Isaiah 26:3* that God will keep those that trust in him in perfect peace whose minds are stayed upon him. Do you have that perfect peace today? Do you know him that is the Prince of Peace? All of us that are here today are in great need of mercy, grace, peace, and comfort. Call upon God and he will give you what you need. Hebrews 4:16 says: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. This is a time when we all need mercy and grace. It is a time of great need. 1 Peter 5:7 tells us to cast all of our cares upon God, "for he careth for you". There is coming an everlasting day of rest to all those that believe. That rest is described in *Hebrews 3:7– Hebrews 4:11*. That is 24 verses. The word "rest"

occurs 10 times in those 24 verses. *Hebrews 3:18* plainly states that unbelievers will NOT enter into that day of rest. What follows for the unbeliever is an everlasting day of turmoil and torment in the fires of hell. It will never end folks. The excruciating agony of it will scream from the pits of hell forever.

I have spoken much of the Comforter so far. *John 15:26* says: "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me". It is that same Comforter, who is the Holy Ghost that is in me, that is motivating and driving me today to speak of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. That sacrificial Lamb is the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ was horribly crucified and died, was buried, and raised again on the third day that all of us might have eternal life. That is one scriptural definition of the gospel. It is that gospel that saves us from the everlasting, raging fires of hell. That same Holy Ghost Comforter I have spoken of is the author of the Bible. The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of truth. The Holy Ghost said in *Hebrews 9:27-28*:

> [27] And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: [28] So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. *Hebrews 9:27-28*

Are you looking for him today? Are you saved? There is coming a day of judgment. You will either be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ as a believer or at the Great White Throne Judgment as an unbeliever. Several years ago I was asked to preach the funeral of my best friend John Kinnon. His sister Hilda insisted that I not try to preach him into heaven. I assured her that I would not. Let me say this, I do not have the power or the authority from the word of God to preach anyone into heaven, out of heaven, into hell, or out of hell. I do have the authority and the commandment to preach the word of God exactly as it is written in the Bible. The consequences of rejecting the word of God are between you and God. God is the author of the law, the judge, and the jury. Every individual preaches their funeral before they die. We know not the hour of our death. We have no guarantee of our next breath. *James 4:14* says: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away". We all eventually come to the day of our death. It is our sin nature that kills us. We are born sinners. *Romans 3:23* says: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;". *Romans 6:23* says: "For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord".

I tell you this today. God loves sinners. *John 3:16* says: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". Romans 5:8 says: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us". I am a sinner. Each of you here today is a sinner. That means that you either have been, or are, lost and on your way to hell. *Luke 19:10* says that the Lord Jesus Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost. If you are lost here today, the Lord Jesus Christ is seeking to save you.

I ask each of you here today, if you were to die today, do you know for sure that you would not go to hell? If you claim to be saved today, is your salvation real? Will the salvation you claim to have keep you out of hell? Each of you here today must realize that you preach your own funeral sermon before you walk through death's door. No amount of preaching at a funeral can change a deceased person's eternal destiny. That is a decision that must be made before God closes life's door. All the Christians that have gone on before us are in heaven today because they were saved by putting their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and then God the Holy Ghost worked the work of repentance in their heart. That repentance evidences itself in a changed

life. If you have not repented, then you are not saved. The evidence of any professing Christian's salvation is in their changed life. *2 Corinthians 5:17* says: "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new". Repentance is God's proof to you that the Devil has not deceived you into accepting a counterfeit salvation. Many Baptists have done the Devil's work in scrubbing up and cleaning up lost sinners who have never put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have churches full of men and women that have prayed faithless sinner's prayers that have heads full of arrow straight Bible doctrine and hearts full of hell. If you have not repented, then it is God's evidence to you and those around you with spiritual discernment that you have a faithless profession of salvation. Salvation and its required repentance are both a work and a gift of God the Holy Ghost. Salvation is not in a church. Salvation is not in a catechism, a creed, or any denomination's formal written statement of faith. Salvation is not in a baptismal pool. You can walk through every baptismal pool in the state of Tennessee and still be nothing but a soaking wet, lost sinner. Salvation is not of works. The Bible says in *Ephesians 2:8-9*:

> [8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

God's grace plus your faith come together to produce a born again child of God. God in his grace provided his sinless Son as the sacrifice for our sins on a bloody old rugged cross. We are saved through and by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is God manifested in the flesh. You can be saved and know it. *1 John 5:13* says: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God". Many folks confuse Holy Ghost conviction with a doubt producing work of the Devil. The Devil will not make any lost person doubt a fake salvation. Unrepentant, open sin in the life of the believer will rob them of the assurance of their salvation and their fellowship with God because that conduct will grieve the Holy Ghost that witnesses to them that they are a child of God. There is a witness of the Spirit in the believer. It is the witness of the indwelling Spirit of God that is our assurance of salvation. Genuine saving faith produces repentance because that repentance is a work and gift of God the Holy Ghost. Repentance is that change that I have talked about. If you are here today and you are not saved, you can be saved if you are under Holy Ghost conviction. If you have a Bible today turn to *Romans 10:8-17*:

> [8] But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; [9] 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. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. [11] For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. [12] For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. [13] For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. [14] How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? [15] And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! [16] But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? [17] So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. *Romans*

10:8-17

Here in *Romans 10* we have the basic ingredients of Bible believing salvation. In verse 8, we see that we must have faith in the heart. Faith is not just a head knowledge. It is something that must be believed in the heart. Verse 9 answers the question of what must be believed. What must be believed is that God raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. That same gospel is expanded upon in *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*. To be saved you must believe that Christ died for your sins, that he was buried, and that he arose from the dead three days later. *Romans 10:9* further states that you must make a confession unto salvation with your mouth. We call that a public profession of faith. We are not to be ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God unto salvation. Verse 13 tells us that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Many so called soul winners stop there and try to lead someone in a faithless sinner's prayer. Verse 14 puts a stop to that idea because it says the condition to get saved is to believe the gospel. If you do not believe the gospel in your heart, you can call on God continuously and he will not save you. Any so called soul winner who tries to manipulate someone into praying a faithless sinner's prayer has put death in the pot. He or she has poisoned the well. Faithless sinner's prayers and the empty professions of faith that accompany them have become the leprosy of our Bible believing churches. The false gospel that is being preached in our churches have made most of their members twofold more the child of hell. If the sinner's prayer you prayed has not forever changed you, then you are not saved. How many of you have never heard the gospel preached? *Romans 10:14* is also the charge to the preacher to proclaim the gospel. Verse 14 is one of the reasons why I am here today. I am that preacher. Verse 17 gives what is perhaps the most important ingredient for salvation and that is the word of God. The word of God is the source of Bible believing faith. So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God (*Romans 10:17*)

I hope you have received something here today that will be of everlasting value to you. If there is anything we can help you with, or you have any questions, we will be glad to try to help you at the conclusion of the service. In closing, I have three passages of scripture that I want to read. *Matthew 5:4* says: "Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. *Isaiah 53:4-5* in speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ has this to say:

> [4] Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. [5] But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. *Isaiah 53:4-5*

Psalm 23 is often called the Resurrection Psalm and is partnered with *Psalm 22* which is often called the Crucifixion Psalm. Here is what *Psalm 23* says:

> [1] The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. [2] He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. [3] He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. [4] Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. [5] Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. [6] Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. *Psalm 23*

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I would encourage you to dwell upon these two passages in the coming days. Are you ready for the coming judgment? If you were to die today, do you know for sure that you would NOT go to hell? That is all for now folks.