



**Three Appointments
Hebrews 9:27-28
Westport Christian Church
November 1, 2009**

“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” (Heb 9:27-28 NASU)

Just last week, I couldn't help over hearing two people talking about being so busy. They were talking about trying to make sure their children got to practice-to the games-to school-to the dentist-to the doctor and so on.

It seems everyone is busy. We have this appointment to meet or that appointment to be. Our children are always on the go so we have even more things to keep up with. To me it seems so crazy. Now, I am just as guilty as anyone. Just last week I had three meetings, two counseling sessions and one home call all in one day!

Given the many details which a presidential inaugural committee must cope with, mistakes are inevitable. So it was that Franklin Delano Roosevelt received an invitation to his own January 20, 1937 presidential inauguration! Through the White House social bureau, he solemnly sent word that the press of official business would keep him away. Then, relenting, he sent a further note in his own handwriting: "I have

rearranged my engagements and think I may be able to go. Will know definitely January 19. F.D.R." (Today in the Word, April 12, 1992.)

Like I stated earlier, there are many appointments that we must meet. Going to work, to the doctor, dentist, bank, I mean the list goes on and on. We all have some place that we must be at a certain time. Many carry pocket calendars, date books and many of the new cell phone have a built in calendar that will sound an alarm to remind you of an appointment you may have.

Making appointments are good because it sets up for us an agenda for the day. I find that if I know I must be somewhere at a certain time it is a lot easier for me to prepare in order to make that appointment.

Many of us have so many appointments that we must meet, but I wonder, are they all important? Today I have selected a text that talks about appointments. This text tells us about three appointments that all have with God.

The first one is not very popular and most people would rather not look at, but it is . . .

I. THE APPOINTMENT OF DEATH

If I were to ask, how many of you have life insurance, most of you if not all of you would raise your hand. I use to joke around with people if they asked me what I did for a living. I would tell them I was in the insurance business. I dealt with life insurance and fire prevention.

The appointment of death is one that everyone will keep. Take for example, Thomas Edison the invention genius. How about Albert Einstein the great mathematician or Alexander the Great, the military genius. What about John D. Rockefeller the great financial expert, Houdini the great escape artist, D. L. Moody the great evangelist. What does each of these great men have in common? Your right, they are all dead.

There are many great good godly men and women who are dead. As a matter of fact the Bible says, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned." (Rom. 5:12 NASU)

None of us here today can escape it. Some have blamed God for death, but God gives life. Sin takes it away.

The following poem was engraved on a tombstone:

"Remember friend, when passing by, As you are now, so once was I, As I am

now, soon you will be. Prepare for death and follow me.”

But someone had written in chalk under that poem two more lines.

“To follow you I’m not content, Until I know which way you went!”

One day, death will be no more. “But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. (1 Cor. 15:54) But until that day comes I must get ready for my appointment with death. ARE YOU READY?

There is a second appointment we will all keep and that is. . .

II. THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDGMENT

Today, judgment is a forgotten subject in many pulpits today.

Just before the death of actor W. C. Fields, a friend visited Fields’ hospital room and was surprised to find him thumbing through a Bible. The friend asked what he was doing with a Bible. In which Fields replied, “I’m, looking for loopholes!” (Source Unknown)

In a 1993 survey for the Times Mirror Company, More than four out of every five Americans agree that “We all will be called before God at judgment day to answer for our sins.” (National and International Religion Report, Quoted in Sings of the Times, August, 1993, p. 6)

One thing we must all know and understand is one day we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. (Romans 14:10)

Paul put in this way when he wrote “I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom.” 2 Tim 4:1 Everyone will stand before the judge.

A man was wheeled into the court room bandaged up, one arm was in a cast, and one leg was in a cast. The judge looked at the man and was in disbelief. He had studied the documents of the case and was shocked at the man's appearance. The injured man had been in an accident. He was pulling a horse trailer when according to the police report he had been forced off the road and crashed. According to the report the officer had to shoot the horse but the officer wrote in the report that the man said he was fine.

The judge looked at the man and asked him to explain why he looked the

way he did when the officer reported that you were fine. Well, your honor the man began, I was laying there in the ditch. I saw the officer go over to my horse and he took out his gun and shot him right there on the spot to put him out of his misery. Then the officer came over to me. His gun was still smoking and he asked me if I was alright. I wasn't about to tell him how bad I hurt all over.

In the book of Acts we read "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (17:30-31)

"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books." (Revelation 20:12)

So the second appointment that we will all keep is that of the day of judgment. When you step up in front of the judge, who will be there for your defense?

I want to share with you three reasons as to why there must be a judgment day.

First the understanding there are guilty people walking around free.

Secondly, there are innocent people who have been found guilty. Both one and two have to do with things that have been unfair on this earth.

Thirdly, some laws of God have no earthly counterpart. The third appointment is . . .

III. MEETING CHRIST AT THE CROSS

The first two appointments are not optional. This appointment is our choice. This appointment is for salvation.

In verse 28 of our text we read, "So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."

Jesus bridges the gap sin caused between man and God. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom 5:8) Through Jesus' blood we have the forgiveness of our sins. Ephesians 1:7 says, "In him we have redemption

through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

The gospel message is Christ loved you so much He died for you! It is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ that makes the difference. “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (1 Cor 15:1-4)

In a poll conducted by USA Today, 67% of Americans adults believe in a hell. But less than 25% believe they will go there, while 25% believe their friends will be there. (USA Today poll, December 1986)

My friends, the Bible makes it very clear that there is only one way to get to heaven and it is through Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, Jesus Himself said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”

“There’s room at the cross for you, though millions have come, there’s still room for one, yes there’s room at the cross for you.”

Conclusion; As the pioneers were making their way across one of the central states to a distant place that had been opened for homesteading, they noticed a horrifying sight. A long line of smoke in the west, stretching miles across the prairie, and soon it was evident that the dried grass was burning fiercely and coming toward them rapidly.

They had crossed a river the day before, but it would be impossible to go back to that before the flames would be upon them. One man only seemed to have an understanding as to what could be done, gave the command to set fires to the grass behind them. Then when a space was burned over, the whole company moved back upon it.

As the flames roared on toward them from the west, a little girl cried out in terror. “Are you sure we shall not all be burned up?” The leader replied, “My child, the flames cannot reach us here, for we are standing where the fire has been!” What a picture of the believer, who is safe in Christ!

“On Him Almighty vengeance fell, Which would have sunk a world to hell. He bore it for a chosen race, And thus becomes our Hiding Place.”

The fires of God’s judgment burned themselves out on Him, and all who

are in Christ are safe forever, for they are now standing where the fire has been. (H.A. Ironside, Illustrations of Bible Truth, Moody Press, 1945, pp. 34-35)

AMEN!